

LATEST

Allied Planes Hit Advancing Nazis

PARIS (AP)—Allied planes hit again today at the German columns striking into Belgium. Up to noon the 9th Tactical Air Force had destroyed six tanks, six armored vehicles and 237 motor vehicles, besides downing 22 enemy planes, it was disclosed tonight.

Strike Vote Result Known Wednesday

Result of the strike vote taken last week by street railwaymen in Victoria, Vancouver and New Westminster will be known Wednesday, C. M. Stewart, union business agent, said today.

The issue to be decided is whether a strike will be called Jan. 6 if the National War Labor Board fails to give its finding on a wage appeal by Jan. 4.

New Cold Wave

Chicago (AP)—A new cold wave with bitter below-zero temperatures hit the midwestern U.S. today. The mercury plunged far below the zero reading in the Dakotas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Iowa, northern and central Illinois, northern Indiana, upper Michigan and portions of Ohio.

Forecasters said the cold wave would spread to the eastern and northeastern states by Wednesday morning, but would diminish in intensity.

Nazis Tried to Kill U.S. Generals

WITH THE U.S. 1ST ARMY (CP-Reuters)—A special German task force infiltrated behind the U.S. lines in an attempt to kill the U.S. 1st Army leaders, it now can be disclosed.

The unit, some of whom drove through in a convoy of British command cars and in British uniforms and some of whom dropped by parachute, carried small vials of sulphuric acid in little match boxes which could be thrown in the faces of interceptors.

Weak Jap Raid

KUNMING, China (AP)—Japanese planes made an ineffectual attack Sunday night on the Kunming air base and a field at Chanyo, eight miles northeast of here. Probably the greatest effect of the raid was to force many persons to spend Christmas Eve in slit-trenches.

1 Name Added To Shawinigan Loss

OTTAWA (CP)—The name of AB. Clayton Leonard White of Brandon, Man., has been added to the list of those missing following the sinking recently of the Canadian corvette Shawinigan in the North Atlantic, it was announced today by naval headquarters.

The entire ship's complement of 91 officers and men was lost. A total of 79 ratings and seven officers were reported as missing. The bodies of five ratings were recovered and identified.

Warns of Robots

CHICAGO (AP)—Within 10 or 20 years robot bombing is "almost certain" to befall the United States and all other countries unless an efficient peace organization is established, State Secretary Stettinius said today.

Writing in the Kivans Magazine, Mr. Stettinius said the Dumbarton Oaks proposals are important because they point the alternative "to unspeakable disaster."

19 War Prisoners Still at Large In Phoenix District

PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP)—Nineteen of the 25 German war prisoners who escaped last week-end from Papago Park war prisoners' camp near here were still at large today as army investigators probed a prisoners' demonstration which preceded the escape.

The celebration of Western Front German successes was broken up with clubs shortly before the Germans escaped, Col. William A. Holden, commandant, has disclosed.

Col. Holden said army guards had to resort to force in ending a demonstration Saturday by a "couple of hundred" prisoners in one of the camp's compounds.

Only six of the escapees, all submarine officers and men, have been apprehended. The ranking member of the group is Lt.-Col. Jurgen Wattenberg, 43. Many of these at large speak several languages.

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Nazi Drive 'Begins to Go Wrong'

Churchill, Eden Confer In Athens; Dynamite Planted

By STEPHEN BARBER

ATHENS (AP)—Prime Minister Churchill sought to end the bloody Greek civil war today as a British patrol reported discovering nearly a ton of dynamite under streetcar lines opposite the main doors of the Hotel Grand Bretagne.

Officials of the Greek government and Lt. Gen. Ronald M. Scobie, commander of British forces in Greece, live at the hotel.

(Whether Prime Minister Churchill and Foreign Secretary Eden of Britain, who had just arrived in Athens in an effort to settle Greece's troubles on the spot, were at the hotel was not disclosed in the dispatch.)

The dynamite, which the patrol said was in boxes bearing German markings, apparently was laid during the night as the area had been carefully searched Monday evening.

MEETS ARCHBISHOP

The Prime Minister and Archbishop Damaskinos, whose name has been mentioned as a possible Regent of Greece, had a three-hour talk Monday and are reported to have "got on famously."

Mr. Churchill and Mr. Eden arrived Christmas Day as the ancient capital echoed to the sound of street fighting between left-wing E.L.A.S. partisans and Greek government forces supported by British troops.

The Prime Minister went into action immediately, communicating with Field Marshal Sir Harold Alexander, Allied Mediterranean commander; Harold Macmillan, British Resident Minister for the Central Mediterranean, and Greek Premier George Papandreu.

PLAN CONFERENCE

Shortly thereafter British headquarters announced plans to convene today a conference "representative so far as possible of Greek political opinion" with the object of "ending fratricidal strife and enabling Greece to resume her place among the United Nations."

Archbishop Damaskinos of Athens was named to preside over the conference and E.L.A.S. representatives were guaranteed safe conduct.

Mr. Churchill's unexpected arrival was a masterpiece of timing that startled the war-scarred city in the midst of gloom-tinged Christmas festivities.

The chain of letter exchanges

between Lt. Gen. Scobie and E.L.A.S. leaders had worn itself out. Most people here pessimistically believed the only solution would be a knock-down, drag-out fight.

Since the civil warfare began three weeks ago, numerous official and unofficial attempts have been made to bring about a truce.

8 to 10 German Divisions Caught Inside Budapest

MOSCOW (AP)—Eight to 10 divisions of Germans and Hungarians were reported virtually trapped in Budapest today as the Red Army drove to the western city limits in a 15-mile advance.

The encirclement of the Hungarian capital was almost completed and front dispatches said Soviet guns had begun systematic shelling of two airports still held by the enemy, while Red heavy and medium bombers flew incessant sorties over the stricken capital.

The greatest panic was reported from inside the city in full view of Russian units that Monday drove to the lofty hills of Budapest, adjoining the city limits of Buda, western half of the Danube-straddling capital.

The Germans were reported to have grabbed all available automobiles and buses and put them under military command, ordering the Hungarian drivers to stand by with blankets and all the warm clothing possible. This led to the speculation that large enemy units might try to make a break for it.

NARROW CORRIDOR

The last narrow escape corridor that appeared still open to them extended 19 miles northwest from the capital to Esztergom, on the southern bank of the big Danube bend.

The ring around the capital was completed in all other directions—at distances ranging from less than two miles on the west to about nine miles on the east.

Today's communique also disclosed a continuing Red Army surge westward in southern Czechoslovakia along the Hron (Garon) River in the vicinity of Leva (Levice) in a drive along the routes to Vienna and Bratislava, now less than 98 miles and 61 miles distant, respectively.

Allies Clear Town of Nazis



U.S. soldiers stand with rifles ready as one of their men starts to open a door during a sniper hunt in the French town of Neiderbronn on the front of the 7th Army, between the French 1st Army on the Vosges sector at the extreme south of the western front and the U.S. 3rd Army on the Saar sector.

Snow, Skating Bring First White Christmas Since '37

A forecast of rain today indicated an early return to Victoria's usual winter weather, following the first white Christmas enjoyed here in seven years. A light blanket of snow which brought gladness to young hearts and some annoyance to motorists, painted picture-card scenes of the south end of the island. Following the happy interlude, rising temperatures appeared in the offing. They would end skating for hundreds who enjoyed that sport over the long week-end.

Moderate to fresh winds, overcast and cool, with rains, beginning late in the afternoon, was forecast by the weatherman. This would be followed by cloudy and mild weather, with intermittent rains or rain showers Wednesday, he predicted.

The snowfall started at 9.40 Christmas morning, and continued until 3.40 in the afternoon, blanketing the city under 1.3 inches. Rising temperatures brought light rain between 11 and midnight, and by morning downtown streets were clear and slushy only remained on most residential streets where traffic was heavy.

FIRST SINCE 1937

In 1937, the year of the city's last white Christmas, snow fell for three days and blanketed the area under an 8.2-inch covering.

The temperature this morning went down to 30 degrees at the coldest, but had risen to 35 at 9 o'clock. On Christmas morning the minimum was 29, one degree above that of Sunday.

Sleds appeared simultaneously with the fall. By afternoon youngsters had made a reasonably good slide on Moss Street hill, and in other parts of town, but there was not sufficient snow to make a first-class run.

Youngsters rushed out of homes to roll snow men and start forts, and the snowballing added a traditional touch to the festive season.

Driving was moderately difficult, with wheels skidding on starts, but careful motorists experienced no great hazards.

HUNDREDS ENJOY SKATING

During the week-end hundreds of youngsters and adults enjoyed skating on shallow ponds. Crowds visited Quik's, Third Trestle and Little Thea, but on Sunday it was definitely lightweight skating. Heavier people and

Jap Emperor Says U.S. Forces Destroyed But War Critical

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Emperor Hirohito's rescript read today at the formal opening of the 86th regular session of the Japanese Diet, warned "the war situation is becoming more critical."

The broadcast of his message urged that his subjects "truly devote their total effort to repel the enemy."

The Emperor praised the Japanese army and navy for "destroying the powerful enemy," and was quoted:

"While the war situation in Greater East Asia progresses daily, the alliances with our friendly nations are also being further solidified."

"We expect to see an early accomplishment of the objective of this sacred war."

The Emperor called on his ministers to "submit the budget draft plans for the fiscal year 1945 and for extraordinary military expenditures."

Tomorrow the Diet will hear reports from army and navy ministers and then recess until Jan. 1.

5 Christmas Babies Born in Victoria

Five Christmas babies brought new joy to Victoria homes Monday, three being born at the Jubilee Hospital and two at St. Joseph's.

Of the three at the Jubilee, two have fathers overseas.

First to arrive there was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Sawyer, 241 Beechwood Avenue, who made her appearance at 2.30 in the morning. The father is overseas with the air force.

Mrs. P. Horton, 1245 Oxford Street, presented Mr. Horton with a daughter an hour and a half later, and Mrs. W. Hughes, 2589 Bowker Avenue, whose husband is overseas with the R.C.A.F., gave birth to a son at 5 in the morning.

They will most probably be the last Yule babies born in the present hospital. Construction of a new maternity pavilion will provide new quarters for babies born on succeeding Christmases.

At St. Joseph's Hospital there were two Christmas babies—a 6-pound 12-ounce son at 2.14 a.m. to Mr. and Mrs. William Cook, 6 Alma Place, and an 8-pound 7-ounce son at 9.45 in the evening to Mr. and Mrs. John Pearce, 710 Wilson Street. The fathers are both soldiers, the former having left Victoria last Friday for a new station. Mr. Pearce is stationed here.

Bomb Nazi Oil Plants At Oswiecim, Poland

ROME (AP)—The big German synthetic oil refineries at Oswiecim, Poland, and Blechhammer and Ostertal in German Silesia were pounded today by fighter-escorted heavy bombers of the U.S. 15th Air Force, it was announced tonight.

Weather Forecast

Victoria and Vicinity—Wednesday: Cloudy and mild with intermittent rain or rain showers. Monday's Temperature—Min. 30; Max. 36. Snow: 1.3 inch. Temperature noon Monday, 37.

Victoria has over 600 hours more sunshine a year than other coast cities, less than half the rainfall.

Allies' Salient At St. Vith Gone; Nazi Front Solid

PARIS (AP)—At least two German armies have been thrown into the now-slowed German offensive—believed at Allied supreme headquarters to have been planned by Hitler himself.

The best information available here is that the Germans launched their counterattack with two armies, and probably three, in an effort to shatter the Allied forces in the west.

According to the information available, the offensive was designed to burst through to the Meuse, all the way between Liege and the French frontier, and by doing so virtually pinch out the Allies in the Aachen sector.

The counterattack got off to a flying start. Whatever the curtailment imposed on its ambitious intent by the tough defense and by Allied counterattacks, it has succeeded already at least in throwing Gen. Eisenhower's winter offensive off schedule and momentarily out of gear.

But the steady slowing of its pace over the crucial Christmas week-end suggests now that the drive which Field Marshal von Rundstedt is directing brilliantly already has begun to go wrong and require readjustment on the field.

Changes Make Front 35 Miles Wide

Two German armored columns by Sunday night had plunged 50 miles into Belgium, reaching within four miles of the Meuse River. The enemy wiped out the U.S. St. Vith salient and formed a solid front 35 miles wide.

Supreme Headquarters disclosed this information today.

Backed up by infantry, the twin German tank pushes had careened 11 more miles into Belgium since the last previous headquarters report.

They had pinched out the U.S. stand west of St. Vith—a jutting salient that had split the German offensive prongs—and formed a single bulge 35 miles wide and now 50 miles or more deep.

In the heart of this bulge a surrounded U.S. force several thousand strong fought doggedly to hold the important Belgian road hub of Bastogne after rejecting a surrender ultimatum. It is under incessant Nazi armor and infantry attacks.

The hope of this isolated force focussed to the south where Gen. Eisenhower's counterassault had beaten back up the Arlon road within five miles of Bastogne—and still gaining ground.

The U.S. wedge west of St. Vith had kept von Rundstedt's drives split.

German stabs had veered north of Laroche through to Grandmenil and Lierneux, threatening to cut off U.S. troops dug in on

ridges west of St. Vith and keeping von Rundstedt's assault prongs from merging.

These forces had to be pulled out in rearguard fighting the last two or three days, Supreme Headquarters said, and the German junction had been formed by Christmas morning.

There were no reports whether this withdrawal was completely successful or if some armor and infantry that had held the pocket for almost a week had been left behind.

The northern line of the German bulge now runs from north of Rochfort, 15 miles from the Meuse, north through Marche, Hottin and Grandmenil, then northwest of Lierneux to near Stavelot, then 14 miles east to Bullingen and on to Monchau in Germany.

Thrusts Repulsed By 21st Army Group

A field dispatch declared von Rundstedt apparently now was seeking a breakthrough toward Namur rather than Liege, 34 miles northeast of Namur. The Germans were more than 30 miles from Namur by Sunday.

Besides pounding into Rochfort 15 miles from the Meuse, German armor and infantry farther southeast also had taken Libramont, only 23 miles from Sedan and 16 from the French border. Prisoners said the German timetable called for Paris by Jan. 17.

Even as the German offensive bit deeper into Belgium, U.S. troops to the northeast at Duren, 20 miles from Cologne, had entered Windem four miles below Duren Sunday, and cleared Obernaubach, a mile farther down.

While the huge ground battle in Belgium cost to both sides raged on, the 8th Air Force got in its fourth straight day of attacks. Thousands of German vehicles and 500 enemy planes have been knocked out by Allied fliers since the start of the counteroffensive.

Today's communique reported enemy patrol activity along the Maas River north of Timburg and in the Venlo sector, but these thrusts were repulsed by the 21st Army group of the 1st Canadian and British 2nd Armies.

For the first time, the main German pressure in Belgium appeared to be turning from the west, where there still were slight gains, to the northwest or north.

A field dispatch dated Monday, however, said the tide seemed to be turning against the Germans in the Stavelot sector, along the northern rim of the German breakthrough.

U.S. forces counted 600 German dead and 34 tanks knocked out on the armor-churned snowfield near Stavelot, five miles west of Stavelot, where the Germans had been held to a standstill. U.S. troops pinched the Nazis out of La Gleize, three miles west of Stavelot, taking 200 prisoners and wrecking or seizing 15 tanks.

Drive Swings Toward Namur

Farther east the Germans lost bloodily in a violent Christmas Eve assault on the U.S. line near Bullingen, but failed to gain.

The Germans dropped parachutists near Stavelot and Beauring intent on disrupting Allied communications, but all were wiped out.

The counterassault along the 25-mile southern flank was striking heavily toward Bastogne, and against the Echternach shoulder of the Nazi bulge. Gains of one to three miles were reported in 24 hours up to Christmas morning.

The Allies Monday sent out more than 4,000 planes, some 600 of which directed their blows at sealing off the battle bulge in the rear line rather than in front-line attacks.

For this reason, officers at headquarters said, the full effect of air blows may not begin to be felt heavily on the actual front line for 48 hours or more.



TWO UP ON THE GERMANS' '88'—Any Allied soldier who fought in North Africa, Sicily, Italy or France will tell you the German 88-mm. gun, used on enemy tanks and tank destroyers, is a trouble-making weapon. Now the U.S. has added to the Allied forces a pretty tough trouble-shooter of their own—the 90-mm. seen on the tank pictured above. The tank is the new "General Jackson" (M-36), produced at Fisher Body's Flint and Grand Blanc, Mich., plants.

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Roof, Basement Fires Cause Some Damage

City firemen responded to more than a dozen alarms during the Christmas week-end — mainly chimney blazes, although damage was reported done by a roof fire and a fire in a basement.

The roof fire was at 1317 Arm Street to which firemen were called Sunday morning. The basement blaze broke out at 6:04 Sunday night at 740 View Street.

Other fires were attended at 1016 Verdier Avenue, 997 Fort Street, 816 Quadra Street, 2607 Fifth Street, 1012 Richardson, 2215 Fernwood Road, 1653 Chandler Avenue and 136 Croft Street.

Saanich, Oak Bay and Esquimalt departments reported no alarms.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Suggestion! Make a New Year's resolution to give a few coins monthly to Chinese relief. Open this week except Wednesday afternoon. Committee for Medical Aid for China, 737 Pandora.

Madame Yvonne Card readings. Private parties, clubs, etc. All questions answered. For appointment, G-6732.

Pictures and photo framing to order. A. E. Taylor and Co., 828 Fort.

St. Mary's Women's Guild turkey hamper won by Mrs. B. E. Page, 1175 Hampshire.

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Radio Has Bronchitis She Says

Exasperated at being unable to obtain new tubes, a woman dumped her small radio down on the counter and exclaimed heatedly, "You keep it! What good's a radio that has bronchitis?"

Depreciation and the desirability of better reception—without static—have put new radios at the top of about 200,000 Canadian families' post-war shopping lists.

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'Darkness Grows Less', Says Royal Greeting

LONDON (CP)—King George, in his sixth and most optimistic wartime Christmas message to Commonwealth people throughout the world, voiced the prayerful hope that before next Christmas "the story of liberation and triumph will be complete."

In one passage of his eight-minute speech from the royal fireside, the King said: "We long for a new birth of freedom and order among all nations so that happiness and concord may prevail and the scourge of war may be banished from our midst."

This was the first time the King had broadcast his Christmas message in the presence of the Queen and Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose. They sat around the microphone, making it a cosy family occasion in the country.

The King's speech was preceded by a recorded broadcast from a front line British Tommy in Germany, Cpl. Robert Bruce Pass, a former window cleaner, who was given the place of honor on the program. Cpl. Pass told his home folks over the radio "we are fighting the weather as well as Hitler. We are in Germany, our face toward Berlin, Good Luck, London, good luck Britain."

In firm, confident tones, the King said: "The lamps which the Germans put out all over Europe first in 1914 and then in 1939 are being slowly re-kindled."

Victoria's Own Scottish Had Turkey In Holland

By DOUGLAS AMARON

WITH THE 1ST CANADIAN ARMY IN HOLLAND (CP)—It was a Christmas of contrasts for soldiers of the 1st Canadian Army standing guard across the flooded rivers of southern Holland and in the forests on the German frontier.

There were festivities almost comparable with the wartime Christmases the men knew in England and there were cold vigils in no-man's-land, where the night was neither silent nor holy. Guns firing over men in slit trenches provided a rumbling background for voices at Christmas Eve carol services.

Christmas morning broke clear and crisp, providing weather reminiscent of Canada. But there was no snow, although drying puddles froze during the night.

LULL CONTINUES

Neither Canadians nor Germans made any Christmas Eve move to end the long lull on the front and there were no reports of raids which occasionally enliven the static Holland routine. Gunners kept up harassing fire during the night and there were some exchange of small arms fire across no-man's-land.

The strict curfew in the Canadian Army area was relaxed to enable the troops to attend midnight carol services and masses, but there was no relaxation for parties. They began early and ended early.

The men in the lines had to dine on their field rations. For those in rear areas a sample menu consisted of tomato soup, meat pie, turkey, mashed potatoes, peas, fruit salad, plum pudding, frosted cake and coffee.

The turkey ration included three ounces a man—a Christmas present to the Canadian Army from the U.S. forces.

Soldiers behind the lines really began their Christmas celebrations last week with regimental dances, parties and shows. Messes were decorated and Christmas trees, trimmed, the trees being lighted in some cases with real tree lights.

One of the highlights of holiday entertainment in the army area has been "Heroes, Aren't They All?" a Christmas revue staged by men of the Essex Scot-

"Already," he said, "we can see some of them beginning to shine through the fog of war that still shrouds so many lands."

In a reference to the Empire, he said that "throughout the Empire, men and women, boys and girls, through hard work and much self-sacrifice have all helped to bring victory nearer. We have shared many dangers and the common effort has bound us together."

Touching on international relations, he said that "labor and devotion, patience and tolerance will still be needed for the experiment of living as nations in harmony."

The King warned that the "defeat of Germany and Japan, is only the first half of our task; the second is to create a world of free men 'untouched by tyranny.'"

In urging concurred among nations, he said: "Yet though human ingenuity can show us no short cut to that universal charity which is the very heart of the Christmas message, the goal is still before us, and I for one believe that these years of sacrifice and sorrow have brought us nearer to it."

"We do not know what awaits us when we open the door of 1945," he added. "But if we look back to those earlier Christmas days of the war we can surely say that the darkness daily grows less and less."

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ting Regiment, a Windsor, Ont., formation.

DINNER IN HALL

The Christmas program of the Canadian Scottish Regiment from Victoria, B.C., was typical of that of many formations. The western Highlanders were fortunate in having a large hall where the whole battalion gathered for a turkey dinner which was eaten from real chinaware instead of mess tins.

The Scottish held a carol service at 11:30 p.m., Christmas Eve, and this was followed by midnight mass for Roman Catholic soldiers. Christmas Day festivities included a visit by the pipe band to each company.

The Royal Winnipeg Rifles haven't space and facilities like the Victorians and held individual company dinners. The quartermaster, Capt. "Rene" Ogilvie of Winnipeg, spent more than \$1,000, much of it contributed by the officers, on extra food and other treats for these dinners.

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Festive Christmas At Institutions



Ladies of the Aged Women's Home enjoy their gala Christmas dinner as St. Nicholas made his annual visit to Victoria hospitals, orphanages, and other institutions.

Those who were feeling sorry for the inmates of the various hospitals in and about Victoria during the Christmas season could have spared their sympathy because from all reports a roaring good time was had by all, with more presents, more visitors and more merriment than ever before.

The children of the Solarium started the day off by opening Christmas stockings that had been specially made up for them with small gifts, oranges and nuts, noisemakers, and one larger present before breakfast. Nurses report that never in all their career have they heard such a din as the children set up.

An early lunch was given the children and the nurses decorated the main table with a lovely centerpiece of Santa and his reindeer. All the children who could get up were allowed to come to the table and the other little patients were wheeled into the main room in their beds and had specially decorated trays.

After dinner, which included turkey and all the trimmings, the children opened the rest of their parcels, which were legion and the visitors came in during the afternoon bringing more presents. When the children were finally put to bed the domestic staff and the nurses had their dinner which was also a gala occasion.

Probationers at St. Joseph's

Hospital got an extra-special present from Santa when they were presented with their caps as a surprise.

All the wards at both Jubilee and St. Joseph's Hospital were decorated with Christmas trees and wreaths and everything possible was done to make the patients' Christmas a merry one. The nurses of both hospitals sang Christmas carols in the corridors and wards on Christmas Eve and Christmas Night.

Midnight mass was celebrated at St. Joseph's Hospital Christmas Eve and again at 8:30 Christmas morning by Monsignor Carleton.

CAROLS AND FRUIT

Alderman W. H. Davies and Joe North made their annual Christmas visit to the hospitals bearing baskets of fruit for the patients and with a carol-singing group. Included in the party were Santa Claus from David Spencer Ltd., in all his regalia; L. W. Woodhouse, reeve of Oak Bay; Ald. D. McTavish, Ald. F. G. Mulhner, Miss Chris Honeychurch and Stanley Honeychurch.

A portable organ was taken and Mr. Honeychurch, accompanied by his daughter on the organ, sang to the patients of St. Joseph's, Vernon Villa, Mt. St. Mary, and Jubilee Hospitals. In some of them, the group were

accompanying by nurses who joined in the carols.

Santa Claus did not forget the 50 children at the B.C. Protestant Orphanage either. There were lots of presents for everybody and the children had a wonderful time. Members of the board and the ladies' committee, attended the special Christmas dinner, after which Santa Claus gave the children their gifts.

The aged men and women of the Old Men's Home and the Aged Women's Home were reported to have "never enjoyed a Christmas better." The ladies enjoyed their special Christmas dinner at the flower decorated tables which was attended by members of the board. During the afternoon they received visitors and had carol singing. There were lots of presents for everybody.

A festive dinner, attended by members of the City Council, was put on for the men at the Old Men's Home and presents from the tree were distributed by Alderman F. A. Willis, chairman of the board. Others there were Ald. Margaret Christie and Ald. B. J. Gadsden.

Christmas tea was held at 5:30 and the old gentlemen were entertained by Frank Lavery's one-man-band. During the evening they had competitive games with prizes being given.

Acting Premier Denies Saskatchewan Flouted Pact On Seed Grain Payments

REGINA (CP)—Acting Premier C. M. Fines of the Saskatchewan C.C.F. government, said today he had advised Federal Finance Minister J. L. Isley that Saskatchewan finds it "impossible" to agree to the federal proposals for settling the 1938 seed grain advances totaling \$17,700,000.

Mr. Fines suggested he confer with Mr. Isley on details of settlement "in a spirit of tolerance and free from personalities and political considerations."

Mr. Fines, Saskatchewan treasurer, said he had written Mr. Isley Dec. 20, asking the Dominion government "to recognize your responsibility," and asserted the seed grain advances must be considered a national emergency. He denied the Saskatchewan government "has flouted the solemn agreement between the Dominion and Saskatchewan" and charged the federal government with a "dilatory policy" in handling seed grain in the spring of 1938.

FIVE MONTHS' TALKS

"The letter was the latest move in the seed grain negotiations of the last five months following the C.C.F. government's decision to settle with farmers for 50 per cent of the principal, and seek an adjustment on the debt with the federal government. When the debt came due Oct. 31 the provincial government could not meet payments to the banks, which also were guaranteed by the Dominion. The provincial government offered treasury bills for any amount the federal government paid and to make

payments when the outstanding debt was collected from the farmers.

"We feel confident that now we can work out the details in a mutually satisfactory manner," Mr. Fines said, warning that if Saskatchewan was forced to settle the seed grain debt on the basis of Mr. Isley's proposal the provincial government would be forced into a position where it would have "no alternative" but to default on its bonded indebtedness.

Mr. Isley's five-point proposal stipulated that Saskatchewan treasury bills would be accepted by the Dominion government provided they carried interest at 3 per cent and fell due serially in equal instalments at the end of the next five years.

DECLARED IMPOSSIBLE

"Our proposals with regard to repayment of the treasury bills are entirely impossible because of our financial position," said the acting premier. "I am sure that you would not want to force us into a position of defaulting on our debt, but the carrying out of your policy would leave us no alternative."

The other points of Mr. Isley's proposal were:

1. The Dominion to implement its guarantee to the banks. (The federal finance department announced in mid-September it had paid 1938 seed grain notes totaling more than \$16,000,000 to the banks.)

2. Saskatchewan to make a payment in cash to the Dominion of

an amount "considered reasonable and fair under all the circumstances."

3. Saskatchewan to deliver treasury bills to the Dominion to the amount paid by the federal government to the banks implementing its guarantee, less the amount of cash payment to be made by the province.

NATIONAL PROBLEM

Mr. Fines said Saskatchewan people "are united" in the belief the 1938 seed grain advance was a national problem and even the former Liberal provincial government was of the opinion the Dominion should pay a portion of the debt.

"You are surely not serious in your threat to 'collect' from the Saskatchewan government even to the point of offsetting amounts due from the Dominion to the province," asked Mr. Fines. "Such drastic action would not now, or in the future, tend toward national unity."

No New Arrests

TORONTO (CP)—Provincial police officials said today no new arrests are expected in the hot-stove torture murder of Mrs. Viola Jamieson of Flanders in northwestern Ontario. Chief Inspector Albert H. Ward and Inspector Frank Kelly of the Criminal Investigation Branch returned here after carrying out further investigation in Kenora and Fort Frances areas.

Today the operation of a price ceiling on oranges in the U.S. has made it unnecessary to continue the Canadian subsidy to control prices to the consumer, started in 1942.

He was an old-time member of Columbia Lodge No. 2, I.O.O.F., and valued member of the congregation of Wilkinston Road United Church.

Besides his wife he leaves three sons, Hugh A., Carl M. and Morris H., all of Victoria; two daughters, Mrs. T. H. Anderson, Kimberley, and Mrs. Victor Raines, Keating; 12 grandchildren; one brother, Jackson of Vancouver and two sisters, Mrs. Jennie Ross and Mrs. Alec Douglas, Vancouver.

Orange Subsidy Off

OTTAWA (CP)—Donald Gordon, Prices Board chairman, said

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Round-up

By TOM MERRIMAN

AN EXPLANATION to the lad who was disappointed over not receiving his bicycle for Christmas—fewer bicycles were made last year in Canada than in any year since 1935. But it won't help if he finds out that 47,000 were made.

LOTS OF mothers and wives of men overseas received flowers for Christmas. Florists received more than 50,000 orders through the Florists' Telegraph Delivery Association. "Flowers Canada" with offices in Toronto handled the orders and although a considerable number are addressed to mothers, wives and sweethearts in hamlets many miles from the nearest florist every effort is made to locate each recipient and as a result Christmas blooms and potted plants brightened many homes which have seldom, if ever, been served by professional florists.

SEATTLE puts the label on the meanest thief. He stole a shipment of Christmas trees that had been delivered to a hospital to brighten the wards of the shut-ins. Tacoma appears to have put on the biggest Christmas party. It entertained 4,000 members of the armed forces, at a "G.I. Open House." Entertainment included dancing, vaudeville shows and carol singing by a 55-voice choir.

TECH. SGT. William Knapp and S. Sgt. William Smith who got Christmas leave together have seen so much service together—100 combat missions as gunners on B24 medium bombers—that they are known to their flying friends as Scotch and Soda, or, alternatively, Ham and Eggs.

THEATRE operators of London are getting warnings through their organization to "beware of the peace." War films will be poison as soon as the war is won, they are being told, and warned not to book films for three months ahead for fear of being caught in a revolution of public taste.

SOME Victoria men may be spending their Christmas leave in Paris. Canadian troops may now go there as well as Brussels. Leave facilities have been established in the French capital with leave hotels, clubs, recreation centres and canteens. It is a long haul from the front to Paris, however, and Brussels is still the city most of the men want to get the best out of short leaves.

THE information may be a little too late to help any U.S. war veterans in Victoria—and there are quite a few of them—solve their Christmas shopping expenses but the United States is holding \$30,000,000 of unclaimed money because 30,000 veterans of the First Great War were careless or ignorant of their rights under the bonus plan. All claims lapse Jan. 1, 1945.

"Grog" as a slang term for intoxicants goes back to about 1770, when Admiral Vernon always wore a program (a coarse fabric of silk or mohair) cloak when walking about his ship. One day he ordered the sailors' rum to be diluted, which no doubt set the sailors sowing their wild oats, and so Admiral Vernon became nicknamed "Grog" after his cloak, and soon the name applied to the rum, and the sailor

whose legs had become un-friendlily was said to be "groggy."

PASSENGER PLANE travel in Canada continues to soar. The 97,917 passengers carried for the year to date represents a 47 per cent increase for the Canadian Pacific Airlines.

OTTAWA (CP)—Canada will study the United States order directing race tracks to close down by Jan. 3, but provincial authorities and racing associations would be involved in any similar decision in the Dominion, federal officials said today.

The United States order was passed to "prevent the use of critical materials, services and transportation . . . until war conditions permit."

Supervision of meetings in Canada is vested in the Minister of Agriculture and the Dominion has the power to halt betting operations at any track. Both Dominion and provincial authorities are interested in the taxation revenue from the tracks.

The actual racing is governed by racing associations in the provinces.

Officials said transportation and other requirements of racing had been constantly reviewed in light of the war needs in the last two or three years.

Canadian racehorses carried \$37,068,199 in wagers during the 1944 racing season, an increase of \$3,923,156 compared with 1943. The 1944 total of wagers was the largest since 1930, when the figure was \$38,007,140.

Unusual Christening

CARDIFF, Wales (CP)—L. Cpl. "Spillane" was "thirsty," all right, that day some months ago when he received the first free issue of a bottle of beer he got in France, but he had a better use for the beverage than drinking it. He guarded it zealously all through weeks of fighting—then brought it home intact to "wet" the head of his newborn son.

Day's Races Canceled
LONDON (CP-Reuters)—Race fans hoping to see the first national season for nearly three years open today were disappointed. The two meetings at Windsor and Wetherby, scheduled for this afternoon, were cancelled. The next meetings are planned for Jan. 6.

Albert L. Allison Dies at 76 Years

Albert Louis Allison, 76, resident of Saanich since 1910, died Christmas night after being in poor health the last two years.

Born in Sussex County, Ontario, in 1868, Mr. Allison went as a child with his parents to Moose Jaw and lived there many years. As a youth of 17 he had taken part in the Riel Rebellion in 1885, hauling freight.

During his years in Saanich Mr. Allison, who was a steam engineer, worked for the mu-

nicipality and was with several island sawmills.

He was an old-time member of Columbia Lodge No. 2, I.O.O.F., and valued member of the congregation of Wilkinston Road United Church.

Besides his wife he leaves three sons, Hugh A., Carl M. and Morris H., all of Victoria; two daughters, Mrs. T. H. Anderson, Kimberley, and Mrs. Victor Raines, Keating; 12 grandchildren; one brother, Jackson of Vancouver and two sisters, Mrs. Jennie Ross and Mrs. Alec Douglas, Vancouver.

Orange Subsidy Off

OTTAWA (CP)—Donald Gordon, Prices Board chairman, said

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LEICESTER (CP)—Growers have complained to the British Growers' Union that tons of onions are rotting in the fields, especially in Lincolnshire, because they have no facilities for storage, and wholesalers have plenty of onions on hand.

The proportion of doctors to the civilian population today is about one to 1,200.

Smokey Smith, V.C., Home By Christmas Midnight

7 Allied Nations Aid Oil Shipment From South to B.C.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Seven Allied and friendly nations are co-operating to relieve the burden of shipping crude oil from California to British Columbia, the Petroleum Administration for War (P.A.W.) announced.

The scheduling of shipments—with Great Britain, Ecuador, Colombia, Uruguay, Venezuela, the United States and Canada collaborating—has now been completed, despite the increasing de-

mand for oil from the Pacific fighting fronts, P.A.W. administrator Harold L. Ickes said. Although California is the normal source of crude oil for the Canadian province, the Canadian government undertook to divert its demands to South America at the request of P.A.W. last July.

With assurance that P.A.W. would give assistance in obtaining oil supplies and in scheduling tankers for the longer haul, Canadian Oil Controller George R. Cottrill undertook to obtain as much as possible of the 20,000 barrel daily consumption of British Columbia from Latin American sources.

Ickes said arrangements had

been made with British authorities to deliver from Ecuador the entire exportable surplus of crude oil which could be used in the British Columbia refineries. This amounted to about 4,000 barrels a day produced by a British company which normally shipped to Uruguay and Argentina.

FROM ECUADOR

The Uruguay importer agreed to the suspension of its contract and to the acceptance of oil from Venezuela as a replacement. This resulted in saving about 2,000 tanker miles because of the shorter haul from Ecuador to British Columbia.

In addition, it was arranged to

have about 11,000 barrels of heavy crude from Colombia shipped to British Columbia, thereby reducing demands on California producers. These shipments began last September, but this month, because of a shortage of tankers, it was necessary for Canada to return to California for about 6,000 barrels a day. The latter deliveries were made possible by an increased rate of production in California.

At the end of March it will be determined whether to return to South America for the 6,000 barrels daily. Meanwhile the Canadian refineries have been able to import 2,000 barrels of light crude oil daily from Colombia.

Flies 10,000 Miles In 3 Days; Folks Postpone Yuletide Feast

By LORNE BRUCE

VANCOUVER (CP)—Ernest Alvia (Smokey) Smith, first Canadian private to win the Victoria Cross in this war, got home for Christmas—arriving by plane a half hour before midnight last night after flying more than 10,000 miles in three days.

The 30-year-old soldier from New Westminster, who won the Empire's highest award for gallantry in Italy with the Seaforth Highlanders, was welcomed by his parents, one brother, civic and service representatives and a

crowd of about 100 other persons. There were no interviews at the airport and the Smith family began the 12-mile motor trip from the "Sea Island" airport to New Westminster shortly after the plane had landed. The homecoming soldier remained at the airport only for a few minutes while photographs were taken.

CHEERED BY CROWD

The crowd, large considering the late hour, the distance from downtown Vancouver and the uncertainty of his arrival time, gave Smith a lusty cheer when he posed holding his Victoria Cross. He pulled the medal from an inside tunic pocket when photographers requested a picture of him with his V.C.

The first person to greet the personable young private was his mother and Smith, kissed her and gave her several hugs. He then shook hands warmly with his father, J. Alvia Smith, a civic employee of New Westminster.

One brother, Pte. Burton Smith of the St. John Fusiliers, then greeted him. Another brother, Pte. Jack Smith, is in France.

The family will eat its Christmas dinner today, having postponed the meal when it was learned Smokey would not arrive until late Monday night.

Others who greeted the dark-haired, good-looking coast soldier were Mayor W. H. Iott of New Westminster, Alderman W. D. Greyell of Vancouver, Lt. Col. D. R. Blair, officer commanding the 2nd Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, and Maj. John Keefe Mahony, V.C.

Maj. Mahony, who lives only four blocks from the Smith home, was awarded the Victoria Cross for holding a bridgehead in Italy last May although wounded three times.

New Westminster, which honored Mahony with a parade and public reception only eight days ago, will repeat the tribute Friday for Pte. Smith. At present no functions are planned until Friday and it is expected Smith will spend the time till then quietly with his family and friends.

The award to Smith, who established a bridgehead across the Savio River last Oct. 21, was the first V.C. to go directly to the Seaforth Highlanders, said Lt. Col. Blair. Lt. Col. C. Cecil Merritt of Vancouver, who won a V.C. at Dieppe in 1942, was formerly a member of the battalion, but at Dieppe he was in command of the South Saskatchewan Regiment.

BATTALION RECEPTION

The Seaforths plan to hold a reception for Pte. Smith at their barracks in Vancouver as soon as arrangements can be made.

Pte. Smith's parents and his brother greeted him affectionately but quietly and reporters only a few feet away were unable to hear what was said. Their smiling faces told how proud they were of him.

Smokey didn't appear even slightly weary although he had traveled 10,000 miles by air in three days. He was calm and self-assured as he posed for pictures and talked to the officials and friends who congratulated him.

His brother, Burton, was scheduled to leave Saturday for overseas, but army officials arranged for postponement of his departure for 10 days and this may be extended.

Justice Lunney Dies In Calgary

CALGARY (CP)—Hon. Harry William Lunney, 59, formerly of the Supreme Court of Alberta, died suddenly here Saturday.

He served on the Alberta Appeal Court from the time of his elevation to the bench in 1928, until his retirement in September this year. He had been in poor health for a number of years, and when his health failed to improve during the court vacation last summer, he resigned. Born in St. John, N.B., he was educated in the public schools there and at the University of New Brunswick, where he graduated in arts in 1906, and subsequently received his bachelor of law degree from King's College, Windsor, N.S., in 1909.

Cornelius Vanderbilt Suffers Attack

CHICAGO (AP)—Cornelius Vanderbilt Jr., author and lecturer, suffered a heart attack on board the Santa Fe Chief Christmas Day, and was taken from the train to a hospital when he arrived here. Dr. Alonzo H. Waterman, physician who attended him, said Mr. Vanderbilt was resting comfortably.

Five former Flying Fortresses forced by the fortunes of war to land in Sweden are now in use with American consent in civilian transportation. After the war they will be paid for and continued in use.

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\$7,200 Civil Service Job Open to Women

OTTAWA (CP)—Arguing they knew as much about the subject as anybody, the women of Canada complained about a recent Civil Service Commission job advertisement—and now the \$7,200 director of family allowance berth is wide open competition.

Officials say it's the most remunerative post ever thrown open to women. The appointment will be made early in the new year.

It all happened when the commission advertised for a man to fill the berth. The appointee will be responsible for the administration of the Family Allowance Act and for the direction of the activities of the family allowance branch of the Department of National Health and Welfare, including the administration of regional offices.

Chief complaint that women were excluded from applying was made by the Federation of University and by other women's organizations whose identity was not given.

Japs Say Subs Again Off This Coast

LONDON (CP)—Japanese submarines "are again operating along the United States Pacific coast," a Japanese broadcast said Monday. The Dornier broadcast claimed submarines were "striking in force" after a two-year period of "behind-the-scenes" supply operations. The enemy report said four submarines alone, since the return to the offensive, had sunk four aircraft carriers, two destroyers and four transports.

There was no Allied confirmation.

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| 150 | 16.67 | 12.05 | 9.75 | 7.88 |
| 200 | 22.22 | 16.07 | 13.00 | 10.50 |
| 250 | 27.78 | 20.09 | 16.25 | 13.13 |
| 300 | 33.33 | 24.11 | 19.50 | 15.75 |
| 350 | 38.89 | 28.13 | 22.75 | 18.38 |
| 400 | 44.44 | 32.15 | 26.00 | 21.00 |
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MR. CHURCHILL IN ATHENS

CHRISTMAS DAY OF THIS FATEFUL year of grace 1944 will be a memorable one for the British Prime Minister and, indeed, for his Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Both Mr. Churchill and Mr. Eden turned up in Athens yesterday afternoon, together with Field Marshal Sir Harold Alexander, commander-in-chief of the Mediterranean theatre of war, and Mr. Harold Macmillan, British resident minister there.

Evidently the government at Westminster had reached the conclusion that nothing short of a close-up view of the situation in Greece and a face-to-face discussion with the leaders of the rival factions engaged in the civil war would be likely to lead to a solution of what has developed into a problem with vast and extremely unpleasant and sinister potentialities. How speedily that solution will be found, how permanent and satisfactory it may turn out to be, must remain in the speculative realm.

THE SECOND PHASE

WHILE OFFICIAL NEWS OF THE actual operations on the western front has not quite caught up with the reports from correspondents and other sources of information, the latest statement from Allied headquarters is a clear intimation that the first phase of the German counterstroke is at an end. From this it may be deduced that though the enemy's penetration in the centre has by no means lost all of its momentum—some progress was made yesterday—the gap has not widened in the last day or so. On the contrary; at some points American pressure has effected considerable contraction of the fluid battle area. Should it be possible to continue this pressure on both the enemy's northern and southern flanks, such further advances as the spearheads may try to undertake could become somewhat risky.

It now remains to be seen which side finds itself in a position to open the second phase in earnest, the phase which conceivably will determine the issue forced by Field Marshal von Rundstedt when he launched his ambitious diversion on Dec. 16. It is patently his plan to widen the breach to give the "shoulders" more room and so allow the "head" to go forward without too much hazard. And it is patently General Eisenhower's plan to fasten his southern and northern "hands" tightly round the "neck" of his adversary and gradually fold back the "body" to its outstretched "feet." That accomplished, of course, von Rundstedt's "great gamble," as the Allied commander-in-chief described it last Friday in his epic Order-of-the-Day, might well become his "worst defeat."

In any case, the enemy's strategy is now clear; he has accomplished substantial gains which the Herr Doktor Goebbels and his highly-imaginative publicists have exploited to the full. But the Nazi high command must soon decide whether such dislocation of General Eisenhower's plans as this counterstroke may have occasioned will be sufficient to delay to any appreciable extent, the beginning of the final Battle of the Rhine—a consideration which may well depend upon the supply factor and, among the impendables, the weather. Happily for the Allies, clear skies for four days have given the Anglo-Canadian-American airmen excellent opportunities to get in effective work. A continuance of these climatic conditions may turn the trick and persuade the Nazi commander-in-chief that his men and armor will proceed farther westward at their peril. Certain it is, nevertheless, that unless he widens the base of his advance and succeeds in pressing his flanks northward and southward, the pattern of the next phase—which even now may be unfolding—will be fashioned for him.

Regardless of how phase two of the "great gamble" develops, Field Marshal von Rundstedt will have to perform near miracles if he is to re-enter Paris on Jan. 17, the date reported to have been set for the climax of a series of Allied reverses now being dangled before the German people—the date on which an intensive campaign for a negotiated peace is to be launched. In the meantime, though, the peoples of the United Nations have the utmost confidence in General Eisenhower's ability to thwart this grandiose Nazi dream.

To Goering: If Britain, America and Russia are the "greatest powers on earth," why were Germans so dumb as to attack them?

POINTS WORTH NOTING

SOME THEORIES ABOUT BRITISH policy in conquered and liberated countries are often spun around abstract ideas, such as "balance of power," "spheres of influence," "power politics," and so on. Their meaning is usually left undefined; but on the basis of them it is argued that Britain is developing aims in Europe other than those concentrated on the defeat of the enemy. This is a strange charge to make against a country with Britain's record, or against a statesman of Mr. Churchill's single-minded refusal to be deviated from the main task. Indeed, the Prime Minister, from time to time, has been subjected to criticism on the very score of this refusal.

The recent White Paper—"Statistics Relating to the War Effort of the United Kingdom"—can leave no doubt that Britain has never hesitated to sacrifice everything for victory, including those things, such as foreign investments, shipping and foreign markets, on which she depends for her existence. No nation can claim to have given herself more unstintingly. Britain has supported and supplied arms to the resistance movements throughout Europe, and opposed the Quislings. She has done so without asking any questions about their political color; the only test has been the genuineness of their resistance to the enemy. Britain aided both General de Gaulle and the resistance fighters inside France; she refused to recognize the Vichy government even when that regime was enjoying recognition as the "legitimate" government of France.

The charge is coupled with the equally strange suspicion that the British government wants to see reactionary bodies in power in Europe. Probably behind both of these notions is the failure to grasp the fact that Britain is a country of profound experience in "the democratic process and socially among the most advanced countries in the world. Her democratic tradition of give and take is so deep-rooted that she has suffered none of that bitter, divisive conflict between political parties and social classes which have afflicted so many other nations, and which made such a fatal contribution to the successes of Axis aggression.

The present British government, despite preoccupation with the war, has passed or is contemplating the adoption of legislation embracing a wide range of social and economic reforms that leaves other democracies far in the background. Why should a government of this temper contemplate with anything but dismay the prospect of reactionary, quasi-fascist governments among her neighbors? Any consideration of recent history makes it clear that the British government is the last one to be indifferent to the need of compatibility between itself and others in Europe. In similar pattern is the thinking that suggests that the new Franco-Russian Treaty is a "diplomatic defeat" for Britain. Britain has every reason to welcome this treaty—and obviously most heartily welcomes it. It adds great strength to the Anglo-Russian Treaty of 1942. That pact is no mere wartime expedient, but a 20-year resolve which is one of the main pillars of British foreign policy; incidentally, it was made by the same British government that is supposed to be hoping for a Europe of reactionary cliques.

THE 'LITTLE MAN'

WHEN HE WAS ASKED A SERIES OF pointed questions recently about Great Britain's plans for transition from war to peace, Rt. Hon. Herbert Morrison, Minister of Home Security and a member of Mr. Churchill's war cabinet, led off by saying: "If we're not sensible, we shall go to the devil." And he proceeded with a lengthy disquisition on what must be done, what could be done, and what must be avoided. But we were particularly interested in what he said about the "little man" in business. The question was: "If economic control continues after the war, what economic freedom will there be for the small trader?" Here's his answer:

In so far as it is irksome, economic control will be less for the small trader, and he may find himself in a better position than he is today. The state won't be allowed to forget the small trader, and as far as I am concerned, I don't want him to be forgotten. The small trader is an important member of the community. As a Socialist, I like individuals, and I want him to live. But it is not we, the Socialists, who are after the small trader. Apart from the question of competition by other forms of retail trading, the small trader is apt to be squeezed by price rings and cartels among manufacturers and distributors. State concern for the control of economic activity is not directed against the small man. It is often in his interest. The small man needs protection against monopolists and rings. The infusion of public policy into the country's business life means less danger and more freedom for the small man.

British Columbia's members of the C.C.F. opposition in the Legislature have no patience with the "little man" who feels he has a right and a place in the business and trading world. Neither of the three C.C.F. legislators who served on the province's Postwar Rehabilitation Council would have anything to do with the recommendation providing for government loans at low interest for this type of hopeful citizen. He is presumably fair game for the third party's general scheme of regimentation.

NOTES

Life is like a football game. Every time you make a big gain, somebody on your own side does something to nullify it.

Why be sensitive about hearing aids, ladies? A gadget in the ear is just as glamorous as a queer doodad hanging from it.

"Fear gives man an odor which excites wild animals and encourages their attack."—Nature. Even other humans are encouraged to work on him.

Crime and Punishment

By J. H. GRAY
WE TALK AND write endlessly about the punishment of war criminals. We talk of retribution, of imposing the supreme penalty upon those who have made our 20th century a thing of horror at which decent men will forever stand aghast.

All right, let us agree upon one thing—that the murderers and torturers and sadistic beasts who have done all these unpardonable deeds shall be tracked down and punished as they deserve. But what about the worst crime of all, what about the destruction of human dignity and what about those cold and devilish scoundrels who with almost devious detachment fashioned the system which turned ordinary decent and kindly human beings into spies and traitors and informers on their fellow men? Where, here, is the definable crime and when the applicable punishment?

Consider the case of Dr. Marcel Petiot, the Parisian bluebeard. He was one of the worst of the torturers and his record for murdering French patriots challenges credence. Search the lexicons as we will, no word will be found to adequately describe this man or his deeds.

Yet after France fell he did not join the collaborationists. No, he was a patriotic Frenchman and he joined the resistance movement. He became one of its leaders and demonstrated that he was a man to be trusted. He took risks, great risks, and this perhaps was his undoing. He fell into the hands of the Gestapo. What they did to him no man can say except that they destroyed the patriot and when they were through with him he was himself a torturer and murderer, a torturer and murderer of the men and women who had been his friends.

Dr. Marcel Petiot had been a man. He had been a man of dignity and courage and integrity; and he became a beast. We, from our lofty judicial heights can say: "Ah, well, he couldn't take it. Other Frenchmen went into the Gestapo hell, but they did not betray their fellow men. Petiot was weak. Petiot was a coward."

We can say these things. We who have never been tortured. We who have never seen our loved ones tortured. We who have never had to go through that Gestapo hell. Yes, we can say these things, but coming from our lips what validity can they have?

AND WHAT IS crime and what is punishment? There was the French aviator whose name eludes our search. He fought in the battle of France. He was shot down but took to the air again and again. He gave everything he had as long as the struggle went on. When it was over he nursed his wounds and became the head of one of Marshal Petain's innumerable departments. France was liberated and the resistance movement rounded up the collaborationists and traitors. He was one of those arrested and is now in prison for life. He has been judged by the French courts. We neither question his conviction nor the justice of the sentence. But—

THERE WAS Maurice Thorez secretary-general of the French Communist Party. He had been one of the leaders of the United Front. He sought to throw the weight of France on the side of democracy in Spain. He saw clearly that if the Fascists won in Spain it would be the beginning of the end of democracy in Europe. And he was right, oh so very right.

When Hitler marched into Poland and France and Britain declared war, Thorez was a member of the French Chamber of Deputies. He was called into the army. But Thorez was no longer interested in fighting Hitler. He threw away his gun and deserted his country's army. He went underground and very soon escaped to Russia. There he remained through the rest of the war. There he remained while the people of France, his people, were being murdered and exploited by the Germans. Thorez lived in Moscow and the people of France organized the resistance movement.

France is now free. The French government has pardoned Thorez for deserting France in her hour of peril and thus paved the way for his return.

What is crime, what is punishment, what is justice? What are Quislings and what of the dignity of man and the degradation of man?

LIBRARIES

From Ottawa Journal.
Mr. Angus Mowat, inspector of public libraries for Ontario, has said in Ottawa that this province has "just a handful" of well-stocked, well-organized city and town libraries; that village libraries are "something to weep about" and deprive two-thirds of the people of this province of an adequate book service.

Mr. Mowat should know the facts, and the condition he reveals is not something to which Ontario can point with pride. The trouble is not so much lack of money but the notion which prevails in many quarters that a book is a luxury and a public library a frill for which public funds should not pay.

An organized community, unless it is very small, must have fire and police services, schools and churches, water and light plants. Such things are essential to the well-being of the people, are taken as a matter of course. But the physical community looks just the same without a public library as with one, and often it is mighty hard to convince the taxpayer who has a book that he should assess himself for culture and the literary amenities.

An organized community in Ontario is permitted to charge the taxpayers for the upkeep of a public library, but there is no compulsion about it. Perhaps the voluntary system in this respect ought to be reviewed by provincial authority. Perhaps we should recognize that a good public library is as necessary a part of the civic establishment as sidewalks and sewers.

Letters to the Editor

SAANICH ELECTRICITY RATES

In the Times paper dated Aug. 10, 1944, it is stated there is to be a reduction in electricity rates on Jan. 1, 1945. In considering the proposed reduction, I believe that the Public Utilities Commission and the B.C. Electric Railway Co. Ltd. should consider the unjust and exorbitant rates now prevailing in Saanich municipality.

Saanich municipality has had a tremendous increase in population in the last few years and areas now paying rural rates should be classed as urban and come under city rates. I believe an honest survey would show that in the rural areas, there are on the whole quite small farms—three to five acres—and a fairly compact population for electric distribution purposes.

To have such a big difference, therefore, between Victoria rates and Saanich rates beyond the three mile circle, is, I consider, discrimination. At present there is a difference of two cents per kilowatt hour between Victoria rates within the three mile circle and Saanich rates outside the three mile circle. This should be eliminated. Further, I consider that there is discrimination in allowing large domestic consumers in Victoria or within the three mile circle to receive electricity at one cent per kilowatt hour while similar consumers in Saanich outside the three mile circle are denied this rate.

A further discrimination as far as Saanich municipality is concerned is the 75c per month minimum rate within the three mile circle while beyond the three mile circle the minimum monthly rate is \$1.50.

The rates existing within the three mile circle should, therefore, be extended to include the whole of Saanich municipality. E. C. WARREN, Reeve, Corporation of the District of Saanich.

ON SOCIAL CREDIT

Again the merry and carefree voices of the Social Crediters are heard in the land, and it must be admitted that speakers advocating this financial scheme have developed more fluency and exuberance to the square inch than any other politicians on the boards at the present time.

The reason for this is, of course, because they confine their remarks almost entirely to the easy task of condemning their opponents. Very little is said about the complicated plan of Major Douglas, but instead the voters are advised to buy books on it. Since the S.C. orators, however, have read these books and still cannot explain S.C. it is hardly reasonable to expect the ordinary voter would be bright enough to grasp it.

No, what the people are more concerned to hear from David Ure, M.L.A., of Alberta, is the reason why the third wealthiest province of Canada failed to produce dividends for its people? Mr. Ure has a great deal to say about the futility of the Beveridge and Marsh plans for social security. Why pay out hard-earned money purchasing power for "cheques" declares Mr. Ure, when a few truckloads of greenbacks will do the trick at practically no expense to anybody—or words to that effect. Many people, however, wonder why it is that the hard-pressed Britons did not jump at this attractive bait, but instead have divorced it and prefer to putter around with stodgy pragmatism like Sir William Beveridge, who still clings to old-fashioned ideas concerning money.

If Mr. Ure would care to ponder these things in a spare moment it might crimp his style somewhat, but would certainly add to his wisdom. A good many are puzzled, too, because the vested interests backed S.C. in the last Alberta election. I think the C.C.F. must have felt they had at last achieved stability when Mr. Ure spoke of them as one of the outdated old line parties. Well, his own organization has reached the enigma stage now. I'm afraid, but large numbers got quite a kick out of S.C. while it lasted.

J. CHRISTIE, Victoria, B.C.

GREAT MEN—AND LITTLE

In his broadcast across Canada on Dec. 20, M. J. Coldwell, the C.C.F. leader, said he was surprised on his return from the war fronts in Europe to find our House of Commons tied up over the problem of reinforcements, how to get them, and whether they should be made up of conscripts or volunteers, or a mixture from both classes. He paid tribute to the leadership and diplomacy of our Canadian Prime Minister, who by laying before the House the whole facts in a secret session, and then agreeing to amend the resolution of confidence in the government so as to admit of its support by all parties without expression of agreement with anything except the intention to implement an

all-out war effort, saved the situation from stalemate, and the country from a contest at the polls which would have delayed forwarding of units now on their way.

Whatever our views on the merits of this issue, I don't think it is overshooting the mark to say of those armchair soldiers who write so bitterly in the press, even imputing personal cowardice, and also those omniscient amateurs who cavil and carp at his weak way of governing Canada in wartime, even when he has led the way in line with the chief executives of Great Britain and the U.S.A., that though they should come to rival Methusalem in age, they will never attain to the wisdom of Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, nor do for Canada so good a job as he has done.

And it is not at all hyperbolic to say, concerning those pettifoggers who try to hand the "white-feather" to the province of Quebec, and brand her loyal soldiers as Zombies, that they would do better to pin it to their own petticoat. We have listened to the Hon. Louis St. Laurent, M. L'Abbe Mayheux, Maj. Gen. LaFleche and Senator Bouchard, and we have seen Cardinal Villeneuve in pictures as he ministered to our brave French-Canadians at the front. We are not all haters of our fellow-men who speak another tongue, or because they are Catholic, not Protestant. Whether Catholic or Protestant most Canadians are Christians, and as such should unite in protest against racial and religious intolerance.

F. W. L. MOORE, 3249 Quadra St., Dec. 21.

WHITE ON RUSSIA

A few days ago you printed an excerpt from a forthcoming book by W. L. White. He certainly makes the Soviet way of life look bad. Let us look at White's record. At the beginning of the war he was broadcasting for CBS from Italy. Early in the Russo-Finnish war he was assigned to that front, though in that the star front was a misnomer. No correspondent got within 50 miles of the fighting. One day White was in Italy, next at the front "in Finland," telling about the "puny, ignorant half-starved Russians." Malevolently broadcasting with all the charity in his puny soul, "The Russians have no boots in 30 below zero weather."

When the war was over 28 of 29 correspondents signed statements they had been "lying." The late Webb Miller headed the list. May be White was the 29th.

I am suggesting that this book, "Report on the Russians," is on a par with his broadcasting. It would be easy to get the opinions of men who have lived in the Soviet Union—writers of integrity. The Reader's Digest, which I consider to be the most reactionary journal in America today, would not print one line from these men, but did commission W. L. White to write about Russia, knowing if not dictating what he would say.

Let me quote two other views. A professor from a big denominational college, after spending some time in Russia, says: "It is a fact that cannot be ignored that whereas over most of the world one senses in youth a feeling of futility . . . in Russia I felt everywhere among the young people a genuine wholesomeness, a sense of social values and a unified outlook on life." Again, a Swiss Protestant pastor visited a group of Soviet war prisoners who had escaped from Germany. He wrote of them: "A strongly expressed feeling of comradeship helps them better to endure their captivity and makes the egoism of the individual impossible. Although they have got to know one another only recently, they share all packages and presents equally. They are simple, frank and honest people who are not afraid of self-criticism and are remarkable for their social convictions, which have much in common with real Christianity. They are so strongly imbued with their ideas and with a sense of integrity that I must admit I can

THIS WAR—FOUR YEARS AGO
By The Canadian Press
Dec. 26, 1940—Admiralty announced a loss of destroyer Achernor. British bombers raided Bordeaux, ending unofficial Christmas truce. First group of Australian and third group of Canadian graduates of British Commonwealth Air Training plan arrived in London. Weather slowed up Albanian fighting.

THROBBING HEADACHE

QUICKLY RELIEVED OR MONEY BACK!
If your head seems splitting in two . . . if the throbbing, jagged pain persists and won't let up . . . try Mentholum. Insert a little in each nostril . . . rub a little on forehead. Its soothing action will give you quick, easing relief.

Mentholum is sold on every main street. Ask your druggist for it today.

MENTHOLUM Gives COMFORT Daily

KIRK'S COAL

You Can Buy No Better

1239 BROAD ST. G 3241

give them nothing. We can all learn from them." He didn't know Bill White. F. A. THORNLEY, Sidney.

The War Today

By DEWITT MACKENZIE
Associated Press War Analyst
The Germans have got their second wind and again are on the drive, but such news as has filtered through the censorship dimly out to this writing indicates the U.S. forces have been holding the enemy to small gains in most sectors or stopping them altogether.

Gen. Eisenhower seems to have the situation well in hand, and we can have confidence in the outcome. It should be marked that despite the great weight of the German counterthrust, the Americans have suffered no debacle. On the contrary they have steadily increased their grip. They will break the back of this German offensive in due course. But the cost in lives is going to be hard to take.

The Germans are suffering just as heavily. It's a bloody business they've started in their desperate, last-ditch effort to stampede the Allies into making a compromise peace. That this is their hope is further confirmed in the statement made by German officers that their offensive calls for arrival in Paris Jan. 17, after which perhaps "Roosevelt will talk peace terms."

The broad picture of the German assault remains the same. They're straining to extend the two great salients which they have driven into the U.S. front in Belgium towards the Meuse River. One of these long arms is stretching out towards the fortified communications centre of Liege. The other on the south is reaching for Namur, and subdivides into a drive for Sedan—a historic invasion route to Paris. One of the menaces of the offensive lies in the fact that these two powerful tentacles form a huge sack within which are many U.S. troops and supply stations. If the Germans could close the mouth of that sack it would create a nasty situation, and they are doing their utmost to achieve this. There are several similar though less dangerous, sacks at various other points. The threats are far from one sided, however. Gen. Eisenhower is flinging counterattacks at the flanks of these German salients. German Field Marshal von Rundstedt lays himself open to a counter move which might cut off and annihilate great numbers of his troops.

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NEW YEAR CARDS

Select yours tomorrow morning and get it off your mind.

"THANK YOU" CARDS

Of course you want to say thank you correctly. DIGGON'S—Typographical note: Spell "waterworks" with a hyphen in the middle.

DIGGON'S 1200 BLOCK GOV. ST.

Advertise in the Times

USE UP GIBLETS IN THIS SANDWICH

Here's a hearty, flavoured sandwich to pack in a lunch box. A grand way to use up giblets—vary the lunch box menu.

Like many another good sandwich, it owes its sparkling zest to Libby's Prepared Mustard. When sandwich-making is a daily task, it pays to keep a jar of this piquant mustard on hand. You'll find it makes a mouth-watering difference.

Try this Unusual Giblets and Egg Sandwich
Giblets from 1 chicken
1 hard boiled egg
1 tablespoon Libby's Prepared Mustard
1 teaspoon cream or evaporated milk
1 teaspoon minced onion
1/4 teaspoon salt

Clean and cook the giblets in boiling water until tender. Drain and put through food chopper with the hard boiled egg. Then add the remaining ingredients and spread on buttered bread. This recipe makes enough to fill 6 full size sandwiches.

Libby's PREPARED MUSTARD
Libby, McNeill & Libby of Canada, Ltd., Oshawa, Ont. 1-45

STOCKERS SECURITY STORAGE LTD.
VICTORIA'S FINEST FURNITURE WAREHOUSE
MOVING-PACKING
PHONE G 3181

Germany will again become the centre of international carrels, as before the war, if an agreement is not achieved among the Allies to liquidate German monopolies. —Red Star, Russian newspaper.

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GOT A COLD?
TAKE LEMON and SODA

First day, drink a glass of lemon and soda every 2 to 3 hours at home or at nearest fountain. (And to induce perspiration, take a hot lemonade when you go to bed.)

Then—continue with lemon and soda 3 to 4 times a day while cold lasts.

It could do you no harm, see your doctor.

TO MAKE LEMON AND SODA
Pour juice of 1 lemon in a half glass of water. Add—slowly—half teaspoon of baking soda (thoroughly mixed). Drink as foaming quits.

TO AVOID COLDS build your resistance! Join the millions who now drink lemon and water daily. Juice of 1 lemon, in glass of plain water, first thing on arising.

WHEN YOU TAKE COLD TAKE LEMONS!

Buy More War Savings Stamps and Certificates

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Crowds Throng Christmas Services At All Churches

Starting with midnight mass in Roman Catholic churches and midnight communions in Anglican churches, Christmas Eve, Victorians thronged the churches to offer their Christmas prayers throughout Christmas Day as special services were given in all churches.

The Bishop of Victoria reported that the largest congregations since the beginning of the war attended the special Christmas masses held in the Catholic churches, starting with Pontifical High Mass Christmas Eve, and ending with Pontifical Benediction, midnight Christmas night. There were 1250 communicants, and more than 400 had to be turned from the church doors because there was no more room. There were also masses at 7, 8, 9.30 and 11. Father E. Toner of Port Townsend gave the Christmas message at all services and Bishop Cody celebrated the masses.

Christ Church Cathedral also recorded throngs of worshippers at all Christmas services, including both Sunday services the day before Christmas. Midnight communion on Christmas Eve saw the church crowded to the doors and many men and women from all branches of the services were with their families.

The special carol service which was given Sunday evening had its usual large attendance. Bishop Sexton gave the Christmas Day message at 11 and communion services were held at 7, 8 and 9.30. Congregations of Metropolitan and First United Church joined in the Metropolitan Church for a special Christmas morning service at 11, which was conducted by Dr. H. A. McLeod and Dr. A. E. Whitehouse, and both churches were crowded Sunday.

Handel's "Messiah" was presented Sunday at Centennial United Church as a special Christmas service with soloists Janet Swetnam, Mary Samuelson, George F. H. Farmer, J. W. Buckler and W. T. Almond.

Crashes Damage Cars On Slippery Streets; Nobody Injured

Despite snow-blanketed streets Christmas Day, Greater Victoria weathered the long week-end without serious traffic mishaps, although several cars, skidding on the slushy pavements, were damaged in collisions and others piled up in ditches. No one was injured.

Cars driven on Pandora by Mrs. Viola McPhee, 2450 Quadra Street, and by Douglas J. Ward, were considerably damaged in a collision at Cook Street early Sunday morning.

Sanich police reported two cars were damaged at Tillicum and Gorge Roads when a taxi driven east on Gorge Road by Lloyd C. Ritter, 513 Manchester Road, went into a skid, striking a car driven by Herbert Pickup, 1080 Moss Street.

Slight damage occurred to cars driven south on Moss Street by Gordon Dowell, 30 Howe Street, and Mathew J. Maxwell, 1498 Darby Road, in a collision Monday afternoon.

City police said some damage was suffered by cars driven east on Gorge Road by Murray Dummett, 2209 Oak Bay Avenue, and north on Government Street by Thomas Edwin Smith, Windsor Auto Court, when they collided Monday.

In a collision with a No. 1 street car operated by H. P. French, a car owned by R. McIntosh, R.R. 1 Royal Oak, was damaged Sunday evening on Fort Street between Douglas and Blanshard.

Struck by a northbound street car operated by Joseph Kelly, a car driven by Carol G. Dunn, Gordon Head Road, was damaged on the left side on Government Street, between Johnson and Yates Street Saturday night. Two trucks, involved in a crash on View Street between Douglas and Blanshard Streets, were damaged Saturday night. Police said a car driven west on View Street by Percy Buckle, 2377 Zela Street, and a Bape Paint truck pulling from the rear of the Paint Supply Co. store, operated by F. E. Karun, 2208 Fernwood Road, collided. Also involved in the crash, but undamaged, was a car driven by John George Sling, which was proceeding east on View Street.

Colliding head-on on Oak Bay Avenue near Foul Bay Road after one car went into a skid Monday afternoon, a car owned by J. Townsend, 2312 Browning Street, was considerably damaged, Oak Bay Police said. Driver of the other car was A. Wilson, 2517 Margate Avenue.

Sanich police reported two cars in the ditch on the east Sanich Road near Elk Lake, but damage was slight. No serious crashes were reported by Esquimalt police, who said several cars were ditched Monday night.

Red Cross Workers at Victoria Military Hospital



Red Cross hospital visiting committee convened by Mrs. J. W. Spencer brought Yuletide cheer to Victoria Military Hospital patients Sunday evening. Left to right: Mrs. J. Sutherland Brown, Mrs. J. Chycoski, Miss Mae Chycoski, Pte. Jerry Chycoski, Mrs. C. F. Armstrong, and Pte. E. Come.



To each patient they gave a basket of fruit, a Christmas stocking filled with crackers, candy and cigarettes and from the Junior Red Cross a gift parcel. Left to right: Tony Concilia, Mrs. J. W. Benning, Roy Bokowsky, Miss Mary Campbell, and Walter Honaka.

Boats Crowded, Taxis Scarce Over Christmas Holiday

Victorians settled down today after one of the busiest Christmas travel periods in history.

Steamers between Victoria and Vancouver both ways were packed solidly. It was standing room only on most vessels. Cabins had been sold out weeks in advance and many passengers have been turned away in recent days from the night steamers, because of lack of sleeping accommodation.

B.C. Coast Service, meeting the demands of the season with limited equipment, moved thousands of persons between here and Vancouver. The rush really started Friday and the climax was reached Saturday and Sunday.

BERTHS ALL SOLD

Three steamers arrived here the morning of Christmas Eve from Vancouver, every berth occupied. There were extra ships both ways each day the company could manage it. Today's mid-

night steamer to Vancouver and the night steamer here from Vancouver were sold out weeks ago. Travel between Victoria and Seattle also jumped at the week-end, hundreds of U.S. sailors, soldiers and marines, and the women of the three U.S. armed services, stationed in Seattle and nearby points deciding to come to Victoria for what they hoped would be an "old-fashioned English Christmas."

Dining facilities on all ships were taxed to the limit, with queues to the lunch counters and saloons. Waiters and stewards were rushed off their feet and couldn't cope with the heavy travel at all, although they did their level best.

Smartly-dressed women, some annoyed about it all, others cheerfully accepting "the inconveniences, picked up their bags and bundles themselves and walked.

Show on Christmas Day put a heavy strain on the taxi services of Victoria. More than one dinner guest, anxious to get home in the evening, was turned

down as far as taxis were concerned. "It's hopeless," one taxi company told people who telephoned with the well-known, "have you a car?" "There's not a thing—maybe by 2 in the morning," said another.

Most taxi companies didn't answer their phones, leaving the receiver down or just letting it ring. Hundreds of people who intended to taxi home were forced to brave the snow and take streetcars, which also carried heavy loads, as did buses, throughout the week-end.

COULDN'T WALK

Private car owners were very generous and as far as their gas would allow, came to the rescue of stranded dinner guests.

Bus travel between Victoria and all island points was heavy, too, as people got away from the cities for a Christmas week-end in the country, made realistic by the snowfall. The island trains, too, have done much business in recent days, as people used the railway to go shopping, visiting and to get home for the week-end.

Travel is expected to drop for the next few days, with an upswing over the New Year's week-end.

Peter Stursberg, CBC Correspondent, Back From War Zones



PETER STURSBURG

After two years covering troop landings in Italy, Sicily and France and experiencing rosbomb attacks on Britain, Peter Stursberg, first Canadian Broadcasting Corporation war correspondent to go overseas, returned to his home in Victoria Christmas Eve and will spend two weeks with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Stursberg and his brother Richard at their home at 2384 Thompson Avenue.

Stursberg, who started his career 10 years ago when he became farm page editor of The Times, later spent six months traveling in Europe before the war, and was with the editorial staff of The Vancouver Province before transferring to CBC, has described many of his experiences in a well-reviewed and popular book, "Journey Into Victory," published in London.

SOLDIERS' THOUGHTS

In Italy Stursberg went to the front lines to report the war's progress for Canadian listeners. He interviewed hundreds of Canadian soldiers and has a pretty good idea of what they are thinking.

There are two subjects on their minds, he said—the steps the government is taking regarding home leaves for many with five years' service and the plans Canada is making for participation in the Pacific war. "These matters cannot be dismissed lightly—I spent considerable time with Canadian soldiers over there and I know their worries and their complaints," Stursberg said. "They are willing to do anything to bring the war to an end, but they will not tolerate unending vacillation on the part of the government. All they ask is that some definite policy be established, so they'll know just where they stand."

Troops overseas, he said, were not greatly concerned over the "Zombie" question, which so rocked Canada last month.

They mentioned it, but they figure that if the boys have to be driven over they would not be of much assistance anyway. "is the way Stursberg sizes it up. Stursberg spent Christmas of 1942 in Victoria and sailed shortly afterwards in a dynamite-loaded ship across the Atlantic to Britain. Until the invasion of Sicily he made his headquarters in London. He and Ross Munro of the Canadian Press, who has also just returned to Canada, were the first two Canadian correspondents to land on the beaches of Sicily, going in with the first Canadian assault troops on July 10, 1943.

LITTLE BLITZ

Stursberg returned to London during the winter of 1943, and handled various features, including "the little blitz." Returning to Italy he followed the Canadian troops up the peninsula, and reported the fall of Rome on June 4 of this year.

At Vatican City Stursberg arranged to have the Pope broadcast in person, parking his CBC radio truck outside and running wires in through the windows of the Pope's private study. It was the first time the Pope had broadcast on any but the Vatican's microphones.

From Italy Stursberg accompanied Allied troops on the invasion of southern France, reporting the capture of Marseilles and Toulon.

When it was again his turn to go back to London he covered the recent V-2 attacks on the British metropolises.

He believes the V-2 has caused more damage in Britain than is perhaps admitted at the time. "They are devilish weapons," he said, speaking from first-hand experience with them.

When his Victoria vacation is finished, Stursberg will return east and expects to be overseas again by mid-February.

A properly-cleaned garment has no odor. With all the soil removed there is no way it can have, since the cleaning fluid has been removed by drying with a warm current of air. The presence of any odor indicates soil left on a garment.

Fourteen Waiting To Go in Solarium

There is a waiting list of 14 for the Queen Alexandra Solarium it was reported at the monthly meeting of the directors.

Having completed the painting of wards, 19 patients were admitted during November. These patients came from: Vancouver 3, Victoria 6, Nanaimo 2, Courtenay 1, Coquitlam 1, Steveston 1, Saanich 1, Shawnigan 2, Cobble Hill 1, and Lytton 1.

Nine patients were discharged during November after treatment. Total patient days numbered 1,815, with an average of 60.5 being cared for daily. At this date there is a waiting list of 14 patients, applications having been received since Dec. 1. As there will be a number of discharges by the end of December it is expected that most of the patients on waiting list will be admitted at the beginning of the year.

Further excellent reports re-

garding treatment with penicillin are being received and two patients so treated have been discharged to their homes as not requiring further hospitalization. The other five cases being treated are showing excellent progress, and further discharges of these patients are in view. Many friends of the Solarium enjoyed the children's annual Christmas party which was held on Dec. 15, and a large host of friends again donated special gifts and treats for the Christmas season.

Wins Fire Award

BRANTFORD, Ont. (CP)—Brantford led all Canadian cities in the international competition between Canada and the United States in connection with fire prevention week, officials were informed today. "A silver cup and a certificate were awarded for first place, which Brantford has won four times in the past six years."

Norway Requests Early Invasion

LONDON (CP)—Johan Ny-gaardsvold, premier of Norway, disclosed tonight that his government had urged the Allies to launch an immediate invasion of Norway from the west.

In a broadcast to his homeland, Nygaardsvold called on every Norwegian to hamper the Germans in any way possible, by sinking enemy transports or sabotaging communications. He warned that every German soldier had escaped to the south will help lengthen the war.

"In time to come when the fighting will become still more intense, and may affect the whole of our people more directly, we must be prepared to accept all sacrifices which the situation will demand," he said.

Spencer's STORE NEWS For Wednesday A.M.

STORE OPEN FROM 9 a.m. TILL 1 p.m.

Men's Work Shirts

TWO GOOD VALUES

Shirts of Winsey flannel—made in coat style with pocket. Here are shirts made for endurance and comfort as well as good appearance. Sizes 14½ to 17. Each... **3.50**

MEN'S BRACES

Suitable for work or dress wear. Strong web and leather ends. A selection at... **50¢**

MEN'S GENUINE LEATHER BELTS

With tongue or slide buckle. Various widths. Shades of natural, blood brown, green and grey... **50¢ to 2.00**

—Men's Furnishings, Main Floor

FOUR GOOD VALUES IN THE HARDWARE DEPARTMENT

SQUARE WASH TUBS



Of strong construction and smoothly finished. In one of these you have years of service... **1.69**

LARGE GALVANIZED PAILS



For general household use. Made of a smooth galvanized iron and built for years of service... **75¢**

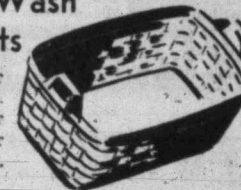
GARBAGE CANS

A limited number on hand. They are made from heavy sheet metal... all have extra iron bands at bottom for extra strength. Strong handles and tight-fitting lid. Each... **5.75**



Baby or Wash Baskets

With wood or cloth handles. Useful sizes for baby baskets or the weekly wash. As illustrated... **1.50 to 2.00**



—Hardware, Lower Main Floor

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SPECIAL

7.85

Smooth sanded finish, ready for painting or staining. Shaped leaves with molded edge. Size closed, 36x22 inches; open, 36x42 inches.

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JERGEN'S LOTION, family-size bottle, **98¢**
NIVEA SKIN OIL, bottle, **50¢ and 1.00**
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BODY BELTS, red flannel lined... **2.50**

ALLENBURY'S MALTED MILK, chocolate or plain, 1-lb. jar... **69¢**
ALLENBURY'S BARLEY FLOUR, 1-lb. tin for... **39¢**
ELIXIR B1, 16-oz. bottle... **98¢**
BENZO-ALMOND HAND LOTION, large bottle... **23¢**

—Toiletries, Main Floor

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Officers and men of the P.P.C.L.I. joined in the Christmas party with their children at the Y.W.C.A. Wednesday which was organized by the W.A. to the regiment. Some of these men have just returned from overseas. They are, front row, left to right: Pte. Fred Buxton; R.S.M. William Kelly, Cpl. D. W. Cuthbert, Col. MacGregor Macintosh, Lt.-Col. J. N. Edgar, R.S.M. F. S. Ross. Back row, left to right, are: Cat. J. C. Holland, Cpl. T. D. McLaren, Cpl. C. Richardson, Cpl. S. C. Bütterick, Sgt. K. G. Tuttle, Sgt. J. R. D. Falconer and Lt. Cpl. J. Roberts. Santa Claus is Sgt. R. McVie also of the regiment. Col. Macintosh spoke briefly to the W.A. members and returned men telling them of the organization of the Patricia Club which he said he hoped would materialize at the first of the year.

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Wed During Holiday Season



Mr. Douglas Andrew Haggart and his bride, the former Margaret Gwendolyn Gibbs, cut the wedding cake during the reception which followed their marriage Saturday afternoon in Oak Bay United Church. Mr. and Mrs. Haggart will reside in New Westminster after a honeymoon in Seattle.

The Taiga of Siberia, one of the world's greatest forests, is 4,000 miles long and 1,000 to 2,000 miles wide.

TAKE A FULL TIN IN THE LUNCH BOX



Do You Feel Nervous And All on Edge?

People suffering from loss of appetite and run-down condition with symptoms of nerve strain often need a nerve and general tonic. Glycero Lecithin with Vitamin B (1) supplies tonic ingredients. It is especially beneficial for convalescents. By increasing the supply of Vitamin B (1) in the system, appetite is improved and the system thereby built up to normal. If the loss of appetite was due to a deficiency of Vitamin B (1) in the diet, \$1.00 at all Cunningham Drug Stores and other Drug Stores. (Adv. OC-1)



Personals

Mr. Mervin Fuller, who has been spending a few days in Victoria, will return to Prince George Wednesday.

Miss Helen Baird entertained Saturday with an after-five party at her home, 51 Marlborough Street.

Mrs. E. H. Griffiths of Lowville Manor, 1246 Fairfield Road, has returned to her apartment after spending four months in Ontario and Quebec.

Dr. and Mrs. George Lee of Vancouver with Miss Rosemary Lee and Masters George and Bruce Lee were guests at the Empress Hotel for Christmas.

Mrs. B. F. Grummow and her daughter, Miss Noreen Grummow, are here from Penland visiting the former's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Percy B. Scutrah, King George Terrace.

Miss Betty Lou Horton, arrived Christmas Day from Palo Alto, Calif., where she is attending Stanford University, to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Russell B. Horton, the Uplands.

Capt. Frank Waring has arrived from Prince Rupert to spend leave with his wife and young son at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Waring, 3416 Bethune Avenue.

Mr. Philip McLean Poops, Stanstead, Que., has arrived to spend the holidays with his wife and baby daughter, Vicki, at the home of Mrs. Poops' parents, Dr. and Mrs. T. M. Jones, 1029 Beach Drive.

Mrs. Sidney L. Johnston and her sons, Michael and Edward, of Spokane, have arrived to spend the holiday season with Mrs. Johnston's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Robinson Pillar. They are registered at the Oak Bay Beach Hotel.

Capt. and Mrs. John D. C. Holland, with their small daughter, Karen Patricia, are spending the holiday season with Capt. Holland's parents, Maj. and Mrs. Glen C. Holland, Munro Street. Capt. Holland, P.C.E.L., is A.D.C. to Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, V.C., C.O.C.-in-C., Vancouver.

Completes Training



Prob. Sub-Lieut. Iola Audree Worthington of Victoria, who has completed an officer's training course with the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service at Ottawa. A commercial high school teacher in civilian life, she enlisted in the navy in June, 1943, as a writer and has been stationed in Ottawa, Galt, Ont., and Cornwallis, N.S. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Worthington, 1360 Craigdarroch Road.

Engagements

Announcements to appear under this heading will be accepted at the Times Advertising Department. Minimum charge \$1.25 for 15 lines, and 25c for each additional line.

Doctor and Mrs. G. G. Stewart, "Pendavis," Cadboro Bay, B.C., announce the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth Grant, to Flt. Lt. John C. Cowans of Montreal, Que.

Now what on earth are you going to do with all those old rubber jar rings... they're well past their canning days. Sew them along the sides and corners of your scatter rugs for anchorage. An immobile rug at the bottom or top of the stairs is not a subject to be slipped over lightly.

To Entertain This Evening



Miss Margaret Pike, who will be hostess this evening to many members of Victoria's younger set with a dance at the home of her aunt, Mrs. P. W. Belson, 990 Terrace Avenue.

Beth's 'Real Live' Christmas Present



"Look what Santa Claus brought me for Christmas," says Beth, as she plays happily with Flash, tiny blonde cocker that she found in her stocking Christmas morning. Elizabeth is the two and a half year old daughter of W.O. and Mrs. George Moyes, 2008 Fernwood Road. Beth's daddy, who is with the R.C.N., has been back and forth from England several times and returned to Britain in the summer after spending leave in Victoria.

Miss Sloan Wed At St. Paul's

A princess gown of white sheer with an embroidered chapel veil falling from a silver sequin cap was the choice of Valentine Harriet, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Sloan, 320 Henry Street, for her marriage to L.A.C. Carrett G. Joy, R.C.A.F., son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joy of Ontario. Rev. Walter Ross performed the ceremony at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Dec. 19. Mr. Sloan gave his daughter in marriage.

Mrs. James Muir, matron of honor, and Miss Betty Murray, bridesmaid, wore frocks of turquoise and white respectively, with flower hats, and carried bouquets of pink carnations. J. Muir was best man and ushers were James Boughey and William Boughey. During signing of the register, C. Dallimore played "O Perfect Love."

Following the ceremony a reception was held at the home of the bride's grandfather, William Sloan Sr., Langford Street. For a wedding trip up-island, Mrs. Joy left in a purple ensemble with black accessories.

Red Cross Notes

Hold Party—Red Cross Home Emergency Christmas party was held at the Business and Professional Women's Club Rooms. Hostesses and host of the evening were members of advisory committee, including Dr. Richard Felton, Miss J. E. M. Bruce, Mrs. K. Barr, Miss Laura Holland, Miss M. Baird and Mrs. Campbell. An interesting feature of the party was a display of novel and inexpensive ideas for Christmas decorations. Games were played during the evening, followed by carol singing and refreshments.

Christmas Meeting

Mrs. C. Watts and Mrs. W. Smith told Christmas stories at the Yuletide meeting of Gleaners Mission Circle of the First United Church, Mrs. Smith presiding. Devotional was led by Mrs. H. Turner and Miss P. Howell, followed by a candle-lighting ceremony, with Miss H. Stewart installing the new officers, Mrs. Inez Jeanne being the new president. On behalf of Mrs. M. McLennan and herself, Miss M. Mitchell made a presentation to the retiring president, and also a certificate to Mrs. M. Gentry, denoting membership of her small son in the Gleaners' Baby Band. Miss Helen Porter reported on the Christmas party given East India children and later led carol singing. Refreshments were served by the hostess, Mrs. M. McLennan. January meeting will be at the home of Mrs. G. Watts, Southgate Street.

Gold dust worth thousands of dollars is recovered every year in jewelry shops from sweepings and from workers' clothes and their wash water.

Rebekahs Entertain

Christmas tree party of Carne Rebekah Lodge, No. 45, was held in the I.O.O.F. Hall with Sister Frances Porter, D.D.P., acting as master of ceremonies. Sister M. Winters accompanied carol singing. The Backward Squad made their appearance, led by Sister Ena McCabe, who was followed by Sisters L. Smoother, L. Dobbie, I. Allen, O. Crowther, M. Brown, E. Joyce, P. Blackburn, M. Combe, E. Mowatt and E. McCabe, with Sister E. Holyoak acting as pianist and Sister E. Van Alphen at the drums. Miss Irene Byatt rendered three solos, accompanied by her sister, Miss Florence Byatt. Mrs. Thomas gave monologues and whistling solos. Santa Claus was assisted by Sister F. Porter and Sister B. Johnson in distributing gifts.

What a blight when the kitchen oilcloth gives out. Treat the next piece with more kindness and it won't go so quickly. For the table top arrange several layers of newspaper so that there are no heavy ridges and tack the new piece firmly in place. Wax it for dirt resistance and keep it lightly shining.

Saturday Evening's Hostess



Among the yuletide holiday hostesses was Miss Katherine Anderson, who entertained with a dance Saturday evening at the home of her parents, Lt. and Mrs. J. C. Anderson, 1503 Laurel Lane. Those invited were: Lt. and Mrs. J. C. Anderson, Mrs. J. Woods, Mr. and Mrs. George Pownall, Mrs. D. Stainsby, Mrs. J. B. Matheson, Wren Irene Jones, Misses Jane Ridewood, Sheila Stewart, Mary Marsh, Nancy Owen, Elspeth Ker, Fenella Patterson, Louise Woods, Brenda Gibson, Nancy Grant, Anita Anderson, Lieut. Frank Gordon, PO. Lance Lake, R.C.A.F.; PO. Jim Marsh, R.C.A.F.; Cadets Paul McCulloch, Maynard, Michael Fitzgerald, Lover, Michael Martin, Peter Campbell, Messrs. Michael Butler, Martin Stainsby, Mac Anderson, Norman Hughes, Bob Tiers, Val Stewart, and Dave Williamson.

CLOSED

ALL DAY WEDNESDAY

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Cosy, Soft, Dresses, Skirts, Sweaters, Scarves, Gloves, Hosiery.

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Dorothy Dix

Dear Miss Dix—I am 28 years old and am engaged to a girl who told me she was 24. After a year of great happiness I have found out that she is 32. I still regard her as very sweet and wonderful, but am not as certain of our future happiness as I have been up to now, since I have found out that she deceived me about her age, and I do not know whether to go on with the marriage or not. What do you think?

Answer: Four years' difference in age should not make you give up the girl who suits you in every other respect. It isn't as if you were a mere boy who didn't know his own mind. You are a mature man whose tastes are not likely to change, and I have no doubt the woman will make you a most satisfactory wife. Perhaps, and she will be all the more anxious to please, because she will feel that she will always have to put her best foot foremost to keep young and attractive looking in order to prevent your eyes from wandering off after young girls.

Don't think that you can't trust her because she lied to you about her age. Practically all women do that, and it is one of the tarra-diddles which the Recording Angel doesn't even bother to chalk up against them.

Award for Son



Mrs. F. G. Allen, mother of the late Wing Commander Lloyd V. Chadburn, D.F.C., of Aurora, Ont., received the D.S.O. and bar from the Governor-General for her son, who was killed in France five days after D-Day. The investiture took place in Ottawa.

Time to be gathering the Christmas greenery. If you love pine and cedar don't strip the trees. Gather carefully... doesn't it make you mad to see enthusiastically hacked at little evergreens that will never live to see the spring? Put boughs in water in a cool place until the Day of Decoration Dawns.

New Cream Deodorant

Safely helps Stop Perspiration



1. Does not rot dresses or men's shirts. Does not irritate skin.
2. No waiting to dry. Can be used right after shaving.
3. Prevents under-arm odor, helps stop perspiration safely.
4. A pure, white, antiseptic, sanest vanishing cream.

Awarded Approval Seal of American Institute of Laundering—harmless to fabric. Use Arrid regularly.

Arrid is the largest selling deodorant

39¢

Also 15¢ and 50¢ jars

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THE LITTLE SHOP WHERE CORSETRY IS AN ART



SLIPPERS

WHY ALWAYS PLEASE A Variety of Pretty Colors

125 to 195

The VANITY

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TERVOS

For the Smartest Styles in Ladies' Apparel

Silicone is a term applied to a considerable group of semi-organic synthetic compounds that bridge the gap between organic and inorganic substances.

The Christy TAM

is the most delightful example of smart sports headwear we have ever seen. Lovely colors, \$8.50.



WHY GIRLS BY THOUSANDS

prefer this way to relieve distress of

PERIODIC FEMALE WEAKNESS

With Its Nervous Restless Feelings

Take heed if you like so many girls—at such times—suffer from cramps, headaches, backache, feel tired, nervous, a bit blue—all due to functional monthly disturbances. Start at once—try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, to relieve such symptoms. Pinkham's Compound not only helps relieve monthly pain but also accompanying weakness, nervous feelings of this nature. This is because of its soothing effect on one of woman's most important organs. Pinkham's Compound is made from effective roots and herbs.



Lydia E. Pinkham's VEGETABLE COMPOUND

GIFTS THAT LAST!

With your gift or bonus money
buy yourself a good Watch or
Diamond. This will be a re-
minder of 1944 for many years
to come!

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London Underground Trains Run Again

LONDON (CP-Reuters)—After the one-day Christmas strike on London's underground lines, trains were again running, normally today.

The subway station at Paddington, a main railway line terminus, was out of action after a fire Sunday which damaged the escalators. The one-day strike, which jacked union sanction, was called in a dispute over arrangements for days off during the holiday season.

600 Victorians, Visitors Enjoy Yuletide At Empress

More than 600 people ate their Christmas dinner at the Empress Hotel in a setting of legendary splendor who formerly frequented the fashionable capitals and resorts of Europe, Paris, Monaco and Vienna were there enjoying the

The Yuletide Festival, inaugurated 15 years ago to attract winter visitors to Victoria, has never waned in popularity and it was no exception this year with guests in attendance from all parts of the Pacific northwest and even from eastern points in Canada and the United States.

Because of war conditions and this acute shortage of help seriously affecting the operation of hotels, the Empress management has been forced to limit the number of guests at this early Elizabethan celebration, which is unique in Canada.

For this year's Yuletide festival, T. E. Chester, assistant general manager, Canadian Pacific Hotels, came from Winnipeg, accompanied by Mrs. Chester. People of international reputation were present at the honored ceremonial of the "Hauling in of the Yule Log." The staircases and other points of vantage were crowded by fashionably-dressed women and their escorts. The whole floor was a fascinating

Santa Visits Roofing Plant



Christmas Dinners At Front in Italy

By WILLIAM BOSS
WITH THE CANADIAN
CORPS ON THE ADRIATIC
(CP)—The Christmas spirit man-
aged to reach the front line of
the Canadian Corps this year.

Almost every unit served special dinners, either prepared right in the line or sent up in containers from rear areas.

The weather was clear and brisk, with snow falling on Christmas Eve. The snow didn't remain long however.

With garlands gay with rose-
mary,
I pray you all sing merrily
Quo Estis convivie."

The evening of conviviality
was terminated with dancing in
the ballroom to the strains of
Billy Tickle's orchestra.

SATURDAY'S TEA

Individual tables decked with holly, serviteurs in Elizabethan mob caps, white fichus and full skirts, and the fragrant cedar bough decorations added to the charm of the Christmas tea held Saturday afternoon in the lounge of the Empress Hotel, which was filled to capacity with guests, for many of whom the tea is an annual "must" on their Christmas social calendar.

The Empress Elizabethan Singers in their picturesque costumes proceeded down the winding stairway into the lounge, singing their lyrical ballads.

The program was varied, including many old-time favorites as well as the beloved Christmas melodies.

Compliments of the Season
A. K. LOVE LTD.

Designate Victoria Congested Area For New Housing Rules

OTTAWA (CP)—Donald Gordon, Prices Board chairman, announced today that the metropolitan areas of Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver and Victoria have been designated as congested areas under the emergency shelter regulations announced last week.

Under the regulations, administrators may be appointed for these centres, with one serving both Vancouver and Victoria, with wide powers to see that all available dwelling accommodation is used.

The regulations provide that a landlord may not deny accommodation because those seeking it have children, unless he has first received the consent of the local administrator.

Mr. Gordon has written to the mayors of the cities declared congested areas, advising them that the board is prepared to appoint an administrator for each. He requested an early meeting of the mayors with board officials to discuss the plan in detail.

Mr. Gordon said that requests

from other cities for the appointment of an administrator will receive "careful consideration"

The Amazon River has been called the "Jugular Vein of a Continent."

NEW METHOD
Laundries
G. 9166
DOING A BIG
JOB - WELL

**Order
COKE
Now
B. C. ELECTRIC
COKE DEPARTMENT**

The following druggists of Victoria and District are **A.I.D.** stores—
Watch for Thursday's Advertisement in this paper:

Aaronson's Drug Store, G 2414
Darling's Drug Store, B 1212
Fernwood Pharmacy, G 2722
Gorge Pharmacy, E 7702
Hillside Pharmacy, G 1632
Jubilee Pharmacy, E 4011
Modern Pharmacy, E 1191
Merryfield & Dack, G 3532
J. A. Peacey, E 3411
Terry's (1939) Ltd., E 7187
Williams' Pharmacy, G 3841

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STORE OPEN
ALL DAY
WEDNESDAY

ENGLISH WOOLENS FOR QUALITY AND LONG WEAR
"RODEX" TOPCOATS—TAILORED SUITS—ACCESSORIES
1107 GOVERNMENT ST. **GORDON ELLIS Ltd.**

What has
ELECTRIC WATER PUMPING
to do with
"WINNING THE PEACE"?

Down on the farm, in many parts of Canada, the quiet, thrifty, electric water pump has been helping win the war. It has stepped up output—for well-watered cattle give increased yield. It has promoted farm efficiency—speeding and lightening work, releasing help for other farm tasks. It has demonstrated how electricity can lighten old jobs and shoulder new ones! And it is teaching us a lesson in winning the peace! *

For electricity is an outstanding Canadian asset. Already more electric power per capita is used here than in any other country in the world—and five times our present output can be produced if all available water power is harnessed.

By extending the use of this abundant electricity when peace returns . . . by applying it, increasingly, in our homes and industries . . . by utilizing it to light our highways, electrify transportation, brighten our cities and free them from smoke . . . by spreading its benefits to more and more farms—much can be done to carry our nation prosperously and happily through the after-Victory years!

Canada has the power—but its future use needs planning NOW! Not for a moment may we relax our war effort—yet preparation can be made for action ahead—for modernization, for the maintenance of high levels of employment and a high standard of living!

In war and peace, for 52 years, Canadian General Electric has been "Canada's Greatest Electrical Workshop." Leaders today in war production, the men and women of C.G.E. will lead tomorrow in the production of "everything electrical" for peace!



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YORK THE BEST SHOW IN TOWN!

GRAND HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT!

THE GAIETY AND SONGS OF THOSE GOOD OLD LYRICAL 1900'S!

COME ON THE RUN! A SCREENFUL OF GALS, GLAMOUR AND FUN!

ANN SHERIDAN DENNIS MORGAN JACK CARSON IRENE MANNING

Shine on Harvest Moon!

IT'S A GREAT BIG HAPPINESS-MAKER FROM WARNER BROS.

They Knew How to Laugh and Love and Face High Adventure Together!

Another Hit by M-G-M!

SPENCER TRACY IRENE DUNNE

A grand guy! A real gal! IN VICTOR FLEMING'S SPARKLING PRODUCTION

A GUY NAMED JOE

VAN JOHNSON WARD BOND JAMES GLEASON LIONEL BARRYMORE BARRY NELSON ESTHER WILLIAMS

ODEON THEATRES

Those Boys are Back Again! in their first in a year... and their funniest of all!

Two cut-ups in cutaways busting the upper crust wide open!

BUD LOU ABBOTT and COSTELLO In Society

ARTHUR TREACHER MARION HUTTON KIRBY GRANT THOMAS GOMEZ ANNE GILLIS

THE 3 SISTERS Margie, Bea and Geri WILL OSBORNE AND ORCHESTRA

TODAY

WORLD IN ACTION "OUR NORTHERN NEIGHBORS"

CHRISTMAS CAROL "BEACH NUTS" (Cartoon)

"STARS AND VIOLINS"

Plaza DOORS 11:30 a.m.

Oak Bay DOORS 7 p.m. Cont.

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ESQUIMAULT ROAD TODAY AND WEDNESDAY

Starting 6:30 and 8:30

Continuous Tuesday from 2 p.m. Here's UNRATED Laughs, Love and Music!

"You Can't Ration Love"

With BETTY RHODES JOHNNIE JOHNSON MARJORIE WEAVER

PLUS "LIFE BEGINS AT 8:30" Starring MONTY WOOLLEY IDA LUPINO

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THE MORNING AFTER! This is the kind of love that forgets everything... it's that DELICIOUS

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ALAN HOWARD RUGGIE PALETTE

FIRST SCREEN APPEARANCE OF ROBERT CARMICHAEL WHO COMPOSED "STARDUST"

HEAR HIM PLAY!

THURSDAY YORK

Girls! Girls!

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Dancing Every Night at 8:30

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FAMOUS PLAYERS THEATRES

NOW! 3 MORE DAYS! TODAY, WED., THURS. TWO BIG FEATURES

It's STAN and OLLIE'S Funniest Ever... IN A HOUSE OF HORROR SO SCARY EVEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT! At 12.47, 2.58, 5.08, 7.20, 9.31

STAN LAUREL OLIVER HARDY "THE BIG NOISE"

With DORIS MERRICK

DOMINION

PLUS Western Musical! **ROY ROGERS KING OF THE COWBOYS AND TRIGGER**

San Fernando Valley

TWO GIRLS AND A SAILOR

EXTRA! Featurette "THE EASY LIFE" Crime Does Not Pay Series Cartoon in Color NEWS

ATLAS

VAN JOHNSON JUNE ALLYSON GLORIA DEHAVEN JOSE ITURBI GRACIE ALLEN LENA HORNE HARRY JAMES and his Music Masters with HELEN FOREST XAVIER CUGAT and his Orchestra with LINA ROMAY

FEATURE STARTS 12.41, 2.53, 5.05, 7.20, 9.31

IRISH EYES ARE SMILING

in Technicolor!

Capitol

Monty Woolley June Haver Dick Haymes

Damon Runyon's

SPORTS SPECIALTY PETER SMITH NOVELTY Speaking of Animals NEWS

Where To Go Tonight

ATLAS — "Two Girls and a Sailor," starring Van Johnson.

CADET — "You Can't Ration Love," starring Betty Rhodes.

CAPITOL — "Irish Eyes Are Smiling," with June Haver.

DOMINION — Laurel and Hardy in "The Big Noise."

OAK BAY AND PLAZA — Abbott and Costello in "In Society."

RIO — "Mr. Mugs Steps Out," starring East Side Kids.

YORK — Ann Sheridan and Dennis Morgan in "Shine On Harvest Moon."

CAPITOL THEATRE

June Haver, Hollywood's latest "success story," whose rise to stardom in one picture has provided food for amazement throughout the industry, admits to one of the strangest "suppressed desires" on record — for a motion picture star at least.

The diminutive blonde beauty of "Home in Indiana" fame, who can be seen currently with Monty Woolley, Dick Haymes and a sparkling cast in 20th Century-Fox's technicolor musical "Irish Eyes Are Smiling" at the Capitol Theatre, has come a long way since she made her debut as an entertainer at the age of 7. On that occasion she played Haydn's "Surprise Symphony" as solo pianist with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

CADET THEATRE

The Paramount lot resembled a college campus during the filming of "You Can't Ration Love," which is now at the Cadet Theatre. The picture, co-starring Betty Rhodes and Johnnie Johnston, satirizes the rationing system by having the male students at mythical Adams College placed on the point system.

DOMINION THEATRE

The secret's out. And it was none other than Ollie Hardy himself, who aired the fact that it's Stan Laurel, the slender half of the thick-and-thin combination, who is the story brains of the outfit.

As on each of their previous 177 films, it was Stan who worked with the studio writers on creating gags and situations for the many serio-comic situations in their new rib-tickling comedy, "The Big Noise," the 20th Century-Fox film now at the Dominion Theatre.



ROY ROGERS, king of the cowboys, and Dale Evans in a scene from Roy's great musical hit, "San Fernando Valley," is the added attraction now being shown at the Dominion Theatre.

YORK THEATRE

A film producer once said about Marie Wilson, currently playing in "Shine On, Harvest Moon," starring Ann Sheridan and Dennis Morgan at the York Theatre, that her comedy was "touched with genius." Other people have said to Marie herself that she appears to be "touched in the head." A quick appraisal of the facts would indicate that the film producer's statement is the correct one.

ATLAS THEATRE

Three of the greatest zanies of screen, stage and radio—Jimmy Durante, Gracie Allen and Ben Blue. Two of the nation's most popular band leaders—Harry James and Xavier Cugat and their orchestras. Two famed and talented singers—Lena Horne and Carlos Ramirez. Two youthful beauties headed for stardom—June Allyson and Gloria de Haven—and the screen's newest romantic idol—Van Johnson. Two of the world's master musicians—Jose Iturbi and Albert Coates. Add 21 musical numbers, including many new hit tunes, a touch

of the classics and the ditties Durante has made famous, plenty of comedy, romance and Hollywood's stunning Dream Girls. Result:

Strange History Revealed in Quiz

EDINBURGH (CP)—Scottish schools, said H. P. Wollstencroft in moderate terms, "do not seem to be succeeding in giving pupils

a clear outline map of history." History lecturer at Moray House Training College here, he made his statement after listening to answers from his students in a history quiz.

Among these answers, he said, were: Clemenceau—"a great medieval saint." Bismarck—"a famous town in Germany." Garibaldi—"a general in Mussolini's army." Woodrow Wilson—"a British member of parliament." Hindenburg—"an American now in exile, but very anxious to take part in the present war."

Howard L. McDiarmid OPTOMETRIST

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Hudson's Bay Company

INCORPORATED 27th MAY 1870

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We'll be happy to make exchanges, to help you choose something else... to exchange colors or sizes whenever possible.

Please feel free to bring your "Christmas Gift" problems to us, for no purchase is complete, at your Friendly Store, until you are completely satisfied.

Hudson's Bay Company

INCORPORATED 27th MAY 1870

Sports Mirror

By PETE SALLAWAY

FOR ONE of the few years in the writer's memory the footballers will be inactive over the holiday period. After trying desperately to set up matches for today and New Year's afternoon the league had to report failure. After first refusing to meet the heavy guarantee to bring over Vancouver St. Saviours the local leaders agreed to meet the demand only to learn the Saints could not line-up sufficient players to make the trip. North Shore refused to come over owing to a player shortage while Nanaimo has made its own arrangements for a game at home. The scheduled match with the Seattle club was turned down by the locals when it was learned the Washington club was not capable of playing the same calibre of soccer as enjoyed here. So Mr. Soccer Phan will have to go without his favorite sport unless the league decides to promote a league fixture New Year's. I don't imagine the players will object one little bit over not playing the first day of the year. Matches on that particular day have never proven very popular with the boys who participate.

RESIDENTS of the Comox area are apparently far from satisfied with the present game regulations in so far as they govern the killing of buck deer. An effort will be made to have the Game Department close the season two weeks earlier than at present. Commenting editorially on the deer situation the Comox Argus said: "Local hunters are going to beg Game Inspector Cunningham to have the season closed on Nov. 15 instead of Nov. 30. They will point out that the last two weeks of the present season is the rutting season when the meat is poor for human consumption and there is no real sport in getting a buck then; any city man can jump out of a car and shoot one as he would a cow. During the last two weeks this season 50 deer a week were going out from this district on cars and at that rate of slaughter the fine reservoir of game that has been opened up above Campbell River will soon be spoiled."

FOR 30 YEARS that famous boxing referee Arthur Donovan has borne a grudge against old Mike Gibbons, the former heavyweight. Of course, it is just a friendly grudge—all Art wants to do is sneak up behind Mike and knock his block off. Here is the reason: A long time ago about 1910—Art kept a few dimes jingling in his kilts by fighting. Then in 1914, he ran up against Mike Gibbons, assassin of many a ring hopeful. "Mike never killed me," Art explained while on a recent refereeing tour. "I never laid a glove on him. The referee saved my life." After that Art became a referee.

"Ever since then," Art continued, "I've wanted to poke Mike just once—to make it even."

In his 30 years in the tight game, Art says Mike Gibbons is one of the greatest fighters. And Art has been in the ring—as a referee—with the best of them—Jack Dempsey, Gene Tunney, Benny Leonard, Harry Greb, Joe Louis and Harry Wills.

DECISION of Washington authorities to request to closure of all horse racing tracks in the United States as of Wednesday, may have serious repercussions on the sports in Canada. Should the U.S. racing plants remain closed all summer it is not likely that the Canadian tracks will operate. Of course, the war situation may be vastly changed by next summer and, providing conditions are more favorable, the tracks throughout the Dominion may be given the green light.

Sports In Dominion Survive War Demands

By SYD THOMAS

Hockey and other major amateur sports in Canada during 1944 reeled under a blow the pessimists calculated would scuttle the ship, when the services banned blue and khaki-clad players from competing in inter-district play-offs. But they staged a major recovery to chalk up a most successful season from the standpoint of spectator interest, although from a quality viewpoint the war brand of game left much to be desired in many cases.

The same thing was true in double measure for the National Hockey League, which proved conclusively that when Gus Phan has plenty of jingle in his pockets he will turn out for games no matter who is playing. Attendance records are being shattered and threatened all along the line, although the big league has lost dozens of its top players to the services and replaced them with youngsters who in pre-war days would be hanging wistfully over the rails dreaming of the distant future when they too might crack the big time.

When the R.C.A.F. and the Army, followed in slightly less drastic fashion by the Navy, banned its athletes from taking part in any competitions leading to Dominion championship play, it looked like quite a blow, especially since the two Allan Cup finalists in 1943 were service teams, and the cup winners in 1942 were R.C.A.F. Flyers.

But the servicemen were dropped from the teams, the service squads played in their own halliwicks and everything turned out fine. There weren't many senior civilian hockey squads in Canada, but those left put on quite a show with the powerful Quebec Aces winning the Allan Cup in three straight from Port Arthur Shipbuilders.

Basketball produced a strange situation in 1944 as a result of the service sport ban. The logical champions of the west were R.C.A.F. Patricia Bay Gremlins, 1943 senior men's champions, but they were unable to get permission to travel east for the finals, although at one time they offered to travel on their own time if they could get leave to go. This fell through, however, and a team they had beaten, United States Army Engineers from Edmonton, went east to fall before Merritt Hayes Steel of St. Catharines, three games to one.

Championship play in other sports saw St. Catharines Athletics topple New Westminster Salmonbellies, 1943 titlists, in the

George Norgan May Finance Pro Ball Team Here

VANCOUVER — George W. Norgan, president of the Portland Baseball Club, is planning to operate a Western International Baseball League squad in Victoria, if he can obtain a franchise in 1945. What is more, none other than Coleman E. Hall will be in charge of the aggregation.

Yakima's junior chamber of commerce announced Friday they would not have a team in the W.I. League in 1945, the league operated. Thus the way would be paved for the Portland club to take over.

"Definitely we are interested in the W.I. League," Norgan said. "We have a number of surplus players and we are very anxious to place them in a good league." It is known that the W.I. League meeting will be held on Jan. 12, just previous to the Pacific Coast Baseball League meeting. There are four franchises held by Spokane, Tacoma, Yakima and Vancouver.

GREAT RIVALRY

In the event the Norgan baseball empire spreads to Victoria and if Coley Hall takes over there, the set-up for a smashing exchange between the Vancouver and Victoria teams would be there.

Bob Brown and his Capilanoes will undoubtedly have the support of the Seattle Rainiers. The rivalry would be intense and with Coley coming back to the scene of his greatest individual baseball accomplishments, managing, possibly playing and inspiring a Victoria team, the games will be loaded with interest and pack a powerful crowd-pleasing punch.

I planned to visit Victoria before Christmas but I postponed it because we didn't have a franchise," Hall said this morning. "However, now we should have a chance, and if George Norgan does get a franchise, we'll put it in Victoria and I'll take charge." Thus the W.I. not yet definitely on the baseball calendar for 1945, may include Spokane, Tacoma, Victoria and Vancouver.

Winnipeg Monarchs Win Junior Hockey

WINNIPEG (CP)—Don Raleigh sparked the mighty south division Monarchs to an 8 to 4 victory over the north division Esquire-Red Wings Monday in the first of a two-game Manitoba Junior Hockey League inter-division series for the Charlie Gardner Memorial Trophy. Both teams had been previously undefeated. The second game is scheduled for New Year's Day.

Raleigh scored three goals and assisted in another while other Monarch markers went to Bill Scott (2), Al Buchanan, Duane Daniels and Clint Albright. Esquire scorers were Stan Craig (2), Bob Young and Laurie May.

PORT ARTHUR WINS

PORT ARTHUR (CP)—Port Arthur Flyers Monday got away to a flying start in the opening

Newhouser, Trout in Spotlight

CHICAGO (AP)—Official American League pitching statistics today showed Paul (Dizzy) Trout and Harold Newhouser, Detroit's brilliant mound team, front and centre on baseball's stage for a rousing curtain call. Not in 40 years has the junior circuit produced such a prolific pair of tossers on the same team. In recently hurling the Tigers to the pennant, Trout and Newhouser racked up 56 victories, the most by a brace of teammates since John D. Chesbro (41) and John Powell (23) of New York collaborated for 64.

The terrific Tiger twins—Lefty Newhouser with 29.0 and right-handed Trout with 27.1—were the American League's only 20-game winners this year, and they permitted only one slab crown to escape them. Boston's Tex Hughson turned in a brilliant 18.5 record for a top win-loss percentage of .753 before he entered the armed forces in August.

AMAZING PERFORMANCE

The much-covered earned run rating title went to Trout with 2.12, an amazing performance considering that the rugged right-hander toiled 352 innings, tops for the season. He also led in shut-outs with seven, worked the most complete games, 33, and faced the most batters, 1,323. Southpaw Newhouser was runner-up to Trout in earned run average with 2.22, and in complete games with 25, but he led in strike-outs with 187, compared with Trout's runner-up total of 144. Third in this department with 2.26 was Hughson. Newhouser placed second in the win-loss column with a percentage of .763, followed by Nel-



POSSESSIVE PAWS—Darkie leans paws on trophy while his little master, two-year-old Ronney Conner, begs permission to share cup. Cocker spaniel won title of "Best All-Around Companion" in contest held at Santa Monica, Calif.

Peter Jackson Winner

Snow and skin ice delayed Victoria's annual Christmas Day swim Monday, but it didn't stop 10 of the city's polar bears from taking their annual Yuletide plunge.

Shifting from the south side of the harbor, where the event has been held in recent years, the swimmers took off from a big snow-covered boat in front of the public landing before the Empress Hotel and splashed their way to the wharf, with Peter Jackson, Y.M.C.A. coming home in front. John Dobbie and Joe Donnelly, both of the V.A.S.C., finished second and third, respectively.

A crowd estimated at over 600 lined the Causeway to watch the event, while other spectators enjoyed the warmth of their cars around the harbor. Held under the auspices of the V.A.S.C., which has been staging the event for the last quarter century, the race was swum under conditions as cold as any in recent history. At one time competitors broke skid ice at the old Gorge clubhouse and on other occasions they have trodden through snow to reach the starting point.

Competing in Monday's race, in addition to the first three finishers were Jack Richardson, Lorna Lee, the only girl entry, Don Wilson, Win Foster, R. W. Gibbs, David Lee and Art Brazier. Jackson, by his victory, took possession of the Capt. Harbord Trophy, while all competitors received Polar Bear pins.

Changing and shower facilities were provided by the Crystal Garden, where the competitors and officials also enjoyed refreshments.

Carnet Bowling

Results of matches in the Victoria Carnet Bowling League follow:
St. Alban's Rovers 16, Haulin Combs 17.
St. Alban's Ramblers 17, St. Alban's Rangers 17.
St. Alban's Ramblers 21, St. Alban's Rovers 19.
Haulin Combs 16, St. Alban's Ramblers 21.
S.O.E. Republic 24, St. Alban's Ramblers 20.
St. Alban's Ramblers 20, St. Alban's Rangers 17.
Haulin Combs 16, S.O.E. Republic 17.
St. Alban's Rovers 22, St. Alban's Ramblers 21.

game of the Thunder Bay Junior Hockey League season, trouncing Port Arthur H.M.C.S. Griffon 13 to 5.

Russia's population of 193,000,000 consists of nearly 200 different nationalities and racial and language groups.

Three other hurlers won more than 15 games—Hank Borowy of the Yankees (17-12); Jack Kramer of the Browns (17-13); and Bill Dietrich and Early Wynn of Washington lost the most games, 17, while Rufus Gentry of Detroit issued the most walks, 108.

They'll Do It Every Time



Pro Athletes In U.S. Declared 4-F To Be Re-Examined

WASHINGTON (AP)—Physical standards for United States military service have not been lowered, but this does not necessarily mean that 4-F professional athletes called up for re-examination would be rejected again.

This question arose Monday as the result of instructions by James F. Byrnes, director of war mobilization, to selective service to review the military qualifications of men in professional sports.

Byrnes said Saturday it was difficult for him and the public to understand how men can be physically unfit for military service and yet be able to compete with the greatest athletes of the country in games demanding physical fitness.

A substantial number of these athletes held 4-F classifications due principally to injuries suffered in sports competition.

A selective service source pointed out that many of these 4-Fs may be borderline cases, and that local draft boards probably will check their records to spot such cases.

Re-examination may disclose that the physical conditions of some of these borderline 4-Fs have changed for the better since their last examination, making them acceptable for induction into service.

It is not unusual for selective service to submit such cases to the army or navy three or four times, the selective service pointed out.

The decision as to whether a man is fit for service is entirely up to the army and navy following examination at an induction centre.

Detroit Within Point Of Leading Canadiens

Hockey Standings

| N.H.L. | Goals |
|---------------------------|-------|
| W. L. D. F. A. Pts. | |
| Canadiens 14 4 2 74 47 30 | |
| Detroit 13 5 3 102 62 29 | |
| Toronto 10 8 2 74 68 22 | |
| Boston 8 11 1 85 94 17 | |
| Rangers 3 11 5 60 92 11 | |
| Chicago 3 11 3 56 82 9 | |

Toe Blake Moves Into Sole Lead Of Major Ice Scorers

Toe Blake added one assist Saturday night when Montreal Canadiens defeated Chicago Black Hawks 2 to 1 and recovered his lead at the top of the National Hockey League individual scoring race.

Bill Cowley of Boston Bruins, who had been deadlocked with Blake for the lead, was scoreless with his team idle during the week-end. Syd Howe made the greatest advance, coming from fifth to third place when he netted four points in two week-end games. Clint Smith of Chicago, Mud Bruneteau of Detroit and Gus Bodnar of Toronto are tied in sixth place with 24 points.

| Leaders follow: | G. | A. | Pts. |
|-----------------------|----|----|------|
| Blake, Montreal | 15 | 13 | 34 |
| Cowley, Boston | 11 | 22 | 23 |
| Howe, Detroit | 1 | 20 | 22 |
| Lech, Montreal | 1 | 21 | 22 |
| Richard, Montreal | 19 | 6 | 25 |
| M. Bruneteau, Detroit | 12 | 11 | 24 |
| C. Smith, Chicago | 2 | 11 | 24 |
| Bodnar, Toronto | 4 | 20 | 24 |

WEEK-END SCORES

Detroit 5, Toronto 4.
Detroit 6, Toronto 4.
Canadiens 2, Chicago 1.
Rangers 3, Chicago 3.

Detroit Red Wings got the biggest point-apple in their stockings this Christmas, though Santa Claus was not too unkind to Montreal Canadiens. The National Hockey League leading teams pulled further away from the pack with wins, while Hap Day's Toronto Leafs dropped a pair of close decisions to fall deeper into third spots.

It was a merry Christmas for Jack Adams' hard-hitting Wings squad, for they pulled within one point of the Flying Frenchmen, and have an opportunity of overtaking Dick Irvin's boys Thursday night when the teams meet on Montreal ice.

Wings came back quickly after a bad start Saturday in Toronto and edged out Leafs 5 to 4, sparked by a pair of veterans—Modere (Mud) Bruneteau and Harold Jackson. After a day's rest, the teams met in Detroit last night and the Adamsmen hung their fourth defeat of the season at Hap Day's door, 6 to 4.

Canadiens kept atop the standings when they edged out the cellar-dwelling Chicago Black Hawks 2 to 1 Saturday, and Hawks could not pull themselves out of the pit Sunday, playing to a 3 to 3 tie with New York Rangers.

Big Butch Bouchard and Fernand Gauthier flipped the rubber into Mike Karakas' nets for Canadiens, while Murch March countered with Hawks tally.

HIT 100 GOAL MARK

Detroit became the first team of the current season to hit the 100-goal mark last night, with rookie Steve Wochy's second-period tally.

Leafs woke up after two sluggish periods in which they found themselves down 5 to 2, and scored twice early in the third period. But they failed to keep up the rush, and Detroit added their sixth goal as insurance late in the frame.

Nick Metz paced Toronto's attack with two markers, while Art Jackson and Lorne Carr got the others. Joe Carveth, Carl Liscombe and Eddie, Bruneteau chalked up the first three Wing goals.

In New York, Chicago Hawks had to pull from behind in the third period Sunday, to tie the count after they held a second two-period lead. Bill Mosienko's goal half-way through the last frame enabled the Hawks to pick up a single point, though they remained in the N.H.L. basement.

Cage Standings

Standings of teams in the various divisions of city basketball league follow:

| SENIOR B MEN | | | |
|--------------------------|----|----|------|
| Team | W. | L. | Pts. |
| Victoria Roadfingers | 9 | 3 | 12 |
| Tommy Tuckers | 5 | 7 | 10 |
| Navy | 2 | 6 | 4 |
| SENIOR C WOMEN | | | |
| Team | W. | L. | Pts. |
| Units | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| Hudson's Bay Sports Club | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| SENIOR C MEN | | | |
| Team | W. | L. | Pts. |
| 42nd A.C. Ask | 5 | 1 | 12 |
| R.C.E.M.E. | 5 | 2 | 10 |
| West Road | 4 | 3 | 8 |
| Chinese Students | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Rilett's Fuel | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| Douglas Tire | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| INTERMEDIATE WOMEN | | | |
| Team | W. | L. | Pts. |
| Comets | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| Registars | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Woolies | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| Units | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Victoria Sports Club | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| INTERMEDIATE A BOYS | | | |
| Team | W. | L. | Pts. |
| K.V.'s Combers | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| INTERMEDIATE B BOYS | | | |
| Team | W. | L. | Pts. |
| Eagles | 5 | 1 | 10 |
| St. Louis College | 3 | 1 | 10 |
| Y.M.C. | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| JUNIOR BOYS | | | |
| Team | W. | L. | Pts. |
| K.V.'s | 5 | 1 | 10 |
| St. Louis College | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Senators | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| MIDGET BOYS | | | |
| Team | W. | L. | Pts. |
| K.V.'s | 5 | 0 | 10 |
| St. Louis College | 0 | 5 | 0 |

The study of the geography of the moon is known as selenography.

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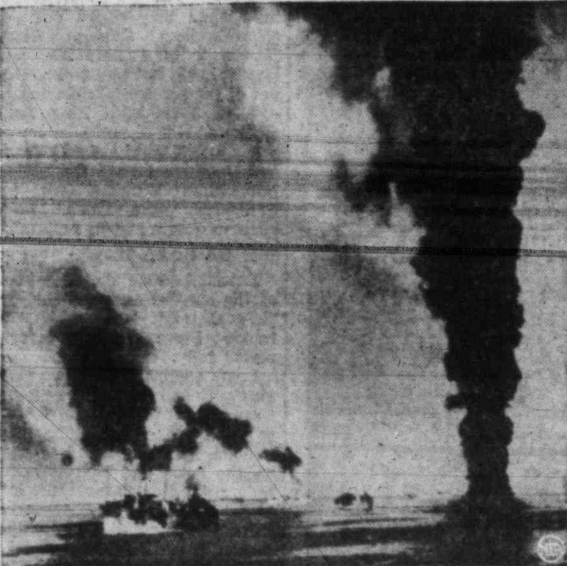
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A black and white photograph of a group of young women in dark clothing marching in a city square. They are carrying a large banner with Greek text. The text on the banner reads: "ΟΤΑΝ ΟΙ ΕΛΛΗΝΕΣ ΕΙΝΑΙ ΣΤΟΙΧΕΙΩΔΕΣ ΚΙΝΟΥΝ ΤΗΣ ΡΟΥΜΑΝΙΑΣ ΔΙΑΝΕΤΗ Η ΤΙΣ ΑΛΛΕΣΤΑΙΣ ΗΤΑ ΟΥΔΑ Ε.Α. Μ." The women are holding the banner with poles. In the background, there is a large, multi-story building with many windows. The scene appears to be a public demonstration or protest.

Tanker Goes Up in Smoke



Uncle Ray

Jap Balloon Lands in Montana



Brown Christmas For Men in Holland

Today's Crossword Puzzle

Books

YOU KNOW HOW GUNS
ARE PLACED IN A
WAR PLANE'S WINGS,
MAJOR? WELL, I'M
GOING TO INVENT A
BURGLAR ALARM
ON THAT ORDER—
WHEN THE PROWLER
PRIES OPEN YOUR
WINDOW, BANG!

OH, COME NOW, MR. PIKE!
I'M WORKING ON THAT
VERY IDEA!—HASN'T
ANYONE HERE TOLD YOU
I'VE BEEN NOMINATED
UNOFFICIALLY TO
WEAR THE MANTLE
OF THE LATE
THOMAS EDISON?

DO YOU
WIZARDS
FIGURE ON
SLEEPING
WITH THE
WINDOWS
CLOSED
TILL A
HOUSE-
BREAKER
COMES
ALONG?

THAT
IDEA
NEEDS
FRESH
AIR =

12-26

WOOH! NO MORE OF THAT GUY'S APPLE-ER CHESTNUTS WILL I TOUCH! HE'S A EX-MILE GUNNER ER SLUMPIN' HE CAN'T RUN, BUT HE CAN HANDLE THAT THING LIKE A RIFLE!

HE CAN TAKE A MARBLE-OUT OF YOUR HIP POKET-AT TWENNY PACES--BUT HE TOOK HAFV MY HIP TOO!

I DON'T KNOW WHY A GUY LIKE HIM WOULD NEED A GUN TO GO HUNTIN'--AN HE COULD SKIN 'EM WHILE THEY'RE FALLIN'!

J.R. WILLIAMS
12-24

BORN THIRTY YEARS TOO SOON

WHO HAS BEEN MESSING WITH OUR TELEPHONE?

See other News Forum articles at www.fox.com/newsforum

WHY, HOW FUNNY! THIS ISN'T SCHEDULED TO BE ON NOW. IT'S NOT EVEN MENTIONED.

WELL, WHAT OF IT?
I LIKE A GOOD MALE QUARTET

BUT THE PROGRAM SAYS KEY-SOAKSKI, RUSSIAN PHONETIC STATION WDOF, 5:15-8:30.

BUT WHY NOT LISTEN TO WHAT'S ON? I LIKE IT.

NO, NO: MR. RUGGLES IS STILL VERY WEAK, BUT HE CERTAINLY ISN'T IRRATIONAL! HIS MIND SEEMS REMARKABLY CLEAR.

BUT HE THINKS HE SAW ME THE NIGHT OF THE ACCIDENT SOMEWHERE WITH SOMEONE ELSE!

GARGY, CAN'TCHA RUN ANY FASTER N THAT? G'WAN, THROW ROCKS AT ME, I WANTA REALLY BE MAD WHEN I CATCH YOU!

Garnet Hazard, C.P.E., one of Canada's better-known watercolor artists and etchers, will visit Victoria for two days, Jan. 11 and 12, under the sponsorship of the Victoria High School, Yarrow's Shipyard, a Lions' Club luncheon, the Women's Canadian Club and the Rainbow Sea Cadets. Mr. Hazard studied painting in

S. S. DWYER

YES, BUT IT'S SO AGGRAVATING NOT TO GET WHAT YOU EXPECT. MAYBE I DIDN'T DIAL IT RIGHT.

LEAVE IT ALONE, CAN'T YOU? I LIKE IT!

BUT I WANTED TO HEAR THAT RUSSIAN PIANIST. HE'S WONDERFUL.

DO LET ME LISTEN TO THIS QUARTET. I LIKE IT!

AND HE SEEMS SO POSITIVE. I HE EVEN SAYS I SPOKE TO HIM

HOIMAN, YOU SE ARE A WOLF!

I DONT GET IT.

OH, WELL, I COULDN'T HAVE DONE BETTER MYSELF! LESSEE NOW... STRING OF PEARLS, NECKLACE, BRACELET, RING - YEP, ALL HERE! WELL, I GUESS THAT'S EVERYTHING!

He has exhibited his water colors throughout Canada and in

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Victoria Firemen Honor Retiring Head of Wardens

For the first time in its history, Local No. 730, International Association of Fire Fighters, A. F. of L., has availed itself of powers granted by the International authorities to create a city fire wardens' chairman an honorary member of the association.

The honor was bestowed on Ald. Archie Wills, who voluntarily retires from the City Council this year after 10 years' service. For seven years he has headed the committee.

"All the boys," explained John F. Abbott, president of the local, "realize he has attended to his duties conscientiously. We were always sure of a fair hearing, and we take this opportunity, in view of the exceptional service and of the high esteem in which we hold him, to honor him with the honorary membership."

"The membership expresses their sincere feeling of regret that you are retiring from the civic administration of Victoria, and feel that we have indeed suffered a loss of a champion of all our just grievances," Mr. Abbott said in a letter to Ald. Wills. "It has been a measure of great satisfaction to us to know that the relationship between ourselves and the Fire Wardens has been both harmonious and constructive over a period of years and which can be, to a large extent, attributed to you as chairman of the fire wardens' committee."

"To our minds it has been democracy in action, when the employees can be seated with their employers to discuss their mutual problems and arrive at satisfactory conclusions to all such matters."

Accompanying the letter was a gold button of the association and a membership card.

In city police court today three motorists paid \$250 parking fines, two pedestrians were each fined \$1 for walking against traffic lights, and two other motorists paid \$5 fines for failing to stop at a stop sign, and failing to produce a driver's license.

Old garden hose, cut into short lengths to make flails and fingers, is the main feature of a new machine to pick the feathers from chickens and turkeys. The machine is patented by the Nova Scotia government.

With Our Servicemen



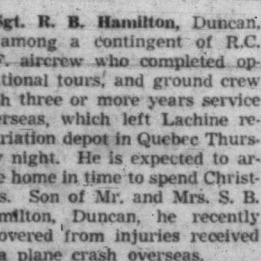
Sgt. J. A. Romain, R.C.A.F., left, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Romain, Sidney, formerly of 3301 Linwood Avenue, who was awarded the Military Medal at Buckingham Palace recently, is shown here with Cpl. H. G. Frety of Victoria. Sgt. Romain was awarded the M.M. for leadership in Normandy beach landings on D-Day.



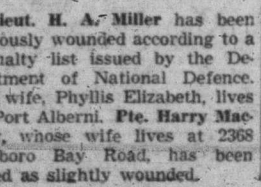
Sgt. J. L. Rennie welcomed home from war by his family. From left to right, CQMS G. Rennie, brother, Mrs. W. Rennie, mother, Sgt. Rennie and his wife.



Mr. L. A. R. Haines, who received his D.F.C. at a recent investiture at Buckingham Palace. Well-known Victoria athlete, and son of A. P. Haines, 1238 Vista Heights, former Duncan school teacher has had many exciting experiences. He enlisted early in 1941 and went overseas at the end of the year where he flew as navigator with R.C.A.F. bombers. Following a bombing mission over the Ruhr in Germany, Dec. 3, 1942, his Halifax was forced down and he was listed as missing for three months. However, he made good his escape and reached Gibraltar. On his return to England he was posted to Canada where he graduated as a pilot in the latter part of 1943, spending leave with his parents after which he again proceeded overseas.



Sgt. R. E. Hamilton, Duncan, is among a contingent of R.C.A.F. aircrew who completed operational tours, and ground crew with three or more years service overseas, which left Lachine retraining depot in Quebec Thursday night. He is expected to arrive home in time to spend Christmas. Son of Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Hamilton, Duncan, he recently recovered from injuries received in a plane crash overseas.



2nd Class P.O. Isaac Peterson, U.S.N., only son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Peterson, 918 Bank Street, has arrived home on Christmas leave. He has had over two years' service with the U.S. navy and has spent 19 months of that service as quartermaster aboard submarines operating in the South Pacific. Born in the U.S., he lived here for nine years, attending Margaret Jenkins and Victoria High Schools. He enlisted in Seattle. He will return to sea duty following expiration of his 30-day leave.

a friend walking of few feet ahead of him in France, Aug. 25. Olson joined the army in Saskatchewan in 1941 and came to Victoria the same year. In August, 1943, he married his wife, Jessie, who lives at 523 Springfield Avenue, and went overseas four months later.



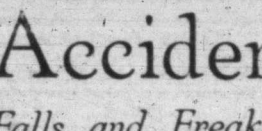
Sgmn. Bert Simpson, 27, R.C.S., who is now on service with his unit overseas, according to word received by his mother, Mrs. Walter Simpson, 215 Henry Street. The youngest son of Mrs. Simpson, Sgmn. Simpson, a well-known local sportsman, received his education at South Park and Victoria High Schools and was a member of the J.B.A.A. rugby club and represented Victoria City rugby squad for several years, playing his last game against Varsity last season. He was also a member of the B.C. Rugby Club on its last trip to California, and was active in football circles. Before enlisting, he was employed by the horticultural department at the Parliament Buildings.



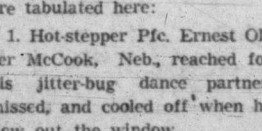
Pte. L. B. Goodwin, C.I.T.C., 15, is now home on leave from Maple Creek, Sask., with his mother, Mrs. M. C. Goodwin, 735 Princess Avenue. Victoria-born, Goodwin has been with the Canadian Army one year.



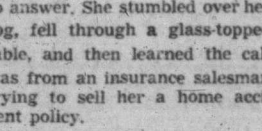
Lieut. F. E. Boss, accompanied by his wife, is spending leave with his mother, Mrs. M. W. Boss, 15 Olympia Street. Victoria-born and educated, Boss returned to Canada last March after four and a half years' overseas. Since then he has been an instructor at Petawawa, Ont. His wife, who was with him there, intends to make her home at 738 Fisgard Street when he returns to duty, Jan. 2.



FO John W. Colbert, 20, is now spending Christmas leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Colbert, 1811 Belmont Avenue, after a year with the Transport Command flying the Atlantic from a command base in the Bahamas.



LSA John F. Batey, is now home on Christmas leave. Of his four years' service in the navy, three have been spent aboard corvettes off the east coast on convoy duty and sailing from U.K. ports. His wife lives at 1032 McGregor Avenue. Born in Vancouver 24 years ago, he was educated here, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Batey, 1264 Faithful Street. He has served aboard H.M.C.S. Swansea, which is credited with at least two U-boat kills. A brother, Lieut. A. Batey, is serving with the R.C.N.V.R.



Gar. E. E. F. Moon has arrived overseas in England, according to word received here by his wife, Mrs. F. Moon, 1316 Findlayson Avenue.

Young Island Master Takes Command Of Victoria-Built Ship

Capt. Ralph T. Burbridge, youthful master mariner of the newer school, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Burbridge, Cowichan Station, is master of Ss. Cypress Hills Park, a 10,000-ton tanker built at the Victoria Machinery Depot shipyard here. The Cypress Hills Park is a tanker and is operated by the Imperial Oil Company.

Capt. Burbridge was born at New Denver, B.C., 26 years ago. As a sea cadet he first went to sea with the Silver-Java-Pacific Line, making seven voyages around the world. He received instruction at the Liverpool Nautical School and obtained his second mate, first mate and master's papers in B.C. He received his master's certificate in September, 1944, and was almost immediately posted to his command, the Cypress Hills Park.

Identify Victims Of Plane Crash

FO. Thomas Leslie Walmaley of Toronto and FO. George R. Spencer of Thorold, Ont., are "missing, presumed killed" following the crash of a R.C.A.F. Mitchell bomber at the Boundary Bay station Saturday, the Western Air Command announced today.

Cpl. Robert E. Dutton of Gilbert Plains, Man., died in hospital from injuries suffered in the accident. The pilot of the aircraft, Flt. Lt. Robert Allan Clothier, of Vancouver, suffered a fracture of a vertebra.

W.P.B. Figures War To Last for Long

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The U.S. War Production Board is operating now on the theory the war in Europe will go on indefinitely, Chairman J. A. Krug told a press conference here today.

As an example, he said new factories have to be built to supply demands for trench mortars and the factories cannot go into production before next August.

He said the present German offensive is destroying a lot of Allied equipment and causing a sizeable boost in production requirements.

Drive Toward Mandalay

KANDY, Ceylon (CP-Reuters)—British 14th Army troops today continued their advance

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Accidents Will Happen!

Falls and Freaks Tell Sad Stories of Odd Mishaps

Accidents looking for a place to happen have always been the chief concern of the National Safety Council. This year of freak mishaps, some of which are tabulated here:

1. Hot-stepper Pfc. Ernest Oliver 'McCook, Neb., reached for his jitter-bug dance partner, missed, and cooled off when he flew out the window.
2. Footballer Gregory Stengel, 13, got twisted when he put his jersey on backward, snapping a neck vertebra.
3. The phone tingled, and Mrs. Rita Hatfield, Chicago, hastened to answer. She stumbled over her dog, fell through a glass-topped table, and then learned the call was from an insurance salesman trying to sell her a home accident policy.
4. Running to the scene of an explosion in Cleveland, Louis Boardman fell into an open manhole, whose cover had been blown off by the blast.
5. A hot line drive at a sandlot ball game struck Clarence Brown Jr., St. Louis, starting a fire when it struck his pocketful of stick matches.
6. Pfc. Charles Smith, home from the front, was injured when a spoon picked up by a power lawn mower was hurled against his leg.
7. A navy plane plowed through baby Margaret Morton's bedroom, at Groton, Conn., and whisked off her blanket without touching her.
8. A truck spilled 13 tons of coal on Paul Lewehick, Coalbridge, Pa., who suffered only minor cuts.
9. A neighbor's clothes line saved Raymond Davis J., four, Chicago, from serious injury when he fell three stories. He suffered only a head bruise.



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southward toward Yeu, the railroad town 70 miles northwest of Mandalay, capital of northern Burma.
In the Arakan sector near the west coast troops of the 15th Indian Corps advancing south turned artillery and machine gun fire on Japanese sampans on the Mayu River.

23 Canadians Die In Yule Accidents

By The Canada Press

The Dominion counted 23 deaths as the toll of the Christmas week-end, 13 in Ontario, four each in British Columbia and Quebec and one each in Manitoba and Nova Scotia. Eleven of the deaths resulted from traffic accidents. Airplane accidents, fires and trains each cost three lives. Two died from monoxide poisoning and one from exposure.
Two elderly people were killed in Vancouver, Mrs. Susan Shandley, 62, dying after being struck by a streetcar and 63-year-old Frank Watkins suffering fatal injuries when he fell off the bumper of an automobile. Two airmen were killed in an R.C.A.F. plane crash at Boundary Bay and a third was fatally injured.
In Manitoba, Mrs. A. W. Graham was burned to death in a fire at her home near Beaver.

Nimitz Commands Fleets in Pacific

BRISBANE, Australia (CP)—Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser, commander of the British eastern fleet, on his return from a conference with United States Fleet Admiral Nimitz, said there will be no difficulty about ammunition and supplies in co-ordinating the British Pacific Fleet with the U.S. navy in the Pacific.

He said adequate docking facilities will be provided where necessary.
"It will be a great pleasure," he said, "to command a British fleet to serve with Admiral Nimitz, who is a great commander."

He added: "The British Fleet will serve under Nimitz and its activities will be recorded in his communications."
Admiral Fraser said he thought his job would be to support Gen. MacArthur in his northward drive. He will confer soon with MacArthur.

The British empire covers about one-fourth of the world's habitable land surface.

6 Floors of Furniture Linoleum
McClary Ranges
HOME FURNITURE
And above Blanket
